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The Place of Library Service in Research: A Suggestion

J. H. Shera, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

[Mr. Shera is bibliographer of Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems at Miami University. Regarding his paper he says that it represents an outgrowth of discussions, both formal and informal, among local librarians and other faculty members concerning the problems involved. Inasmuch as the paper has been productive of a considerable amount of profitable discussion, it might be of interest to the library profession as a whole.]

Almost a century after the initial opening of its doors a well-known Middle-western college for the first time expressed in tangible form its need for a full-time trained librarian. Previously the library had been administered by one serving largely in the capacity of instructor and only incidentally concerned with bibliographical matters.

Such a situation, far from being unique, has to a considerable degree been the rule among our colleges and universities, and, until very recent times, particularly so among those institutions which had developed from the somewhat retarded educational movements that spread west of the Alleghenies.

Formerly, then, "educational librarian-ship" (if one may be pardoned the use

of an inclusive, slightly redundant term in a narrow, restricted sense to indicate that section of the profession concerned with only colleges, universities and research work) and its attendant problems were seen thru remote, external and sometimes unsympathetic eyes. Small wonder that coördination and coöperation were lacking and that policies were but ill defined. That growth and advancement were hampered and that the profession suffered greatly thereby admits of no possible doubt.

But the complexion of the entire situation has changed radically within recent decades. Stimulated by a growing realization on the part of college faculties and administrators of the importance of the library in an institution the aims of which are educational and investigative, and by a resultant development of the professional library school, librarianship has become extremely conscious of its own existence. Witness the mushroom growth of organizations, national, state and local, of, by and for librarians.

The pendulum is indeed rapidly swinging to the other extreme. From being merely an important side issue in academic life, the library is now decidedly *in medias res*. As President Angell has

said of the new Sterling library at Yale, "It is indeed the very heart of the University, and the obligation to maintain it and develop it to the highest point of efficiency is one which we must cheerfully face and one which, even if we so desired, we could not possibly avoid."¹ No longer is the library administered by one whose time is partially occupied with other matters, but professional schools are daily training those who plan to devote their entire energies to the solution of library problems. Similarly, these schools themselves are using to the utmost advantage their influence toward the raising of professional standards, at least along certain restricted lines. Much is being written, and justly so, about the place of research in library service; and in every possible way those interested in professional training for the librarian are striving to emulate the organization of other professions and to develop along lines approximately parallel with theirs.

That this is to a considerable extent progressive cannot justly be disputed; certainly the motives which prompt it are of the highest. But one must remember that it is not devoid of an attendant danger—the excessive emphasis upon librarianship as an end in itself. Of all the professions, if indeed that of the librarian is to be admitted into this category as all are agreed that it should be, "educational librarianship" is the most parasitic. It depends for its existence entirely upon its ability to supply a given specific need, and the moment its benefits drop below the point of marginal productivity its development is impaired. It is not sentimentalization to say that the "educational librarian" lives by devoting his life to the service of others; it is the truth. The librarian of the public library can, largely thru the ingenious use of adult education programs and

similar aids, create a demand for his services where little if any has existed before. In the final analysis "Reading with a Purpose" is only genteel advertising. But the energies of the "educational librarian" must be expended along entirely different lines for he serves a unique clientele.

The inference from all this is obviously that the "educational librarian" cannot afford to become too conscious of self; must not look at library problems always thru the eyes of the librarian; must employ a greater breadth of vision. It is by no means sufficient that catalogers be technically skilful in the niceties of filing, and classifiers expert in the manipulation of the obsolescences of the Dewey decimal classification. In addition they must have the point of view of those for whose benefit the books are being prepared. In short they must be something of teachers and research workers themselves.

"An old princess," says Stark Young, "most devout, and a good Fascist, observed to me, over a cup of tea not many weeks ago, that it was to be regretted that the present Pope had been a librarian, a breed of men who the world over, according to her, know the outside of everything and understand the inside of nothing."² There is a bit more truth in this criticism than most of us would care to admit.

Any definite progress toward the ideal must therefore depend upon the increment of understanding between the librarian and the academic world that he serves; both must be in complete agreement upon all points at which their respective interests converge, and both must appreciate and understand the other's problems and point of view.

It will be argued, as it rightly should, that this is primarily a problem for the library schools and that the solution lies

¹ Yale University. Report of the president for the academic year, 1929-1930. New Haven. Yale University. 1931. p. 33.

² Young, Stark. Notes on Fascism in Italy today, III. *New Republic*. v. 67, no. 370 (August 5, 1931) p. 313.

in the raising of standards for degrees and complete revision of curricula. With the exception of a few specialized courses, the type of training received by all candidates in library schools, irrespective of the individual interests of the students, is regrettably lacking in diversity. Yet these same students will, upon entering the multifarious fields of library activity, encounter problems that have strikingly little in common. Far-seeing and broad-minded librarians³ have awakened to the need for a more subjective approach to the volumes which they are daily handling. Some might even go so far as to deem advisable the requirement of a probationary period in research work or teaching, in a field other than library science, of all who would devote themselves to the advanced branches of "educational librarianship." There is much wisdom in this and it is to be hoped that even the extremists might to some extent have their way. But before one can talk much about the place of research in library service there must be vastly more attention paid to the place of library service in research.

At best, however, the work of the library schools can be little more than individual, in that it would prepare the student for his personal relationships with the specific research workers with whom he will need to coöperate. This specific relation must be supplemented by a more extensive program which will result in closer coöperation between the national professional associations of the participants involved. In practice the machinery necessary to stimulate this might be at first quite simple and direct. The American Library Association, for it would be upon it that the responsibility for such a movement would rest, might well initiate a movement for the formation of a permanent committee,

the chairman to be the librarian of a large university library and the personnel to be composed of one member each from a representative and diverse group of learned societies.⁴ This committee would then be endowed with a permanent advisory function, submitting at stated intervals, annually or biennially perhaps, recommendations, developed from the results of investigations of the individual members, to the American Library Association looking toward the improvement from the research worker's point of view of all phases of "educational library" work. Conversely, the American Library Association could use this committee as a medium for the expression of the attitudes and problems of librarians to the learned world as a whole. In essence the committee might stand in a position analogous to that of the system of consultants at the Library of Congress.

The methods of investigation of the committee could be left largely to the discretion of the individual members. Each could develop along lines of his peculiar interests, for each man would be chosen because of outstanding qualifications in his particular field, the problems which he considered most vital to the needs of bibliography and library service. There is no need to define these methods closely here; suffice it to say that each would work thru his own professional association and that any method might be used—even the lowly questionnaire might conceivably play a part.

There is nothing particularly unique about such a scheme. Coöperative enterprises of a similar nature have been developed successfully before. All librarians are familiar with the efforts of certain sections of the American Library Association toward the formulation of

³For an excellent presentation of this point of view see Kelley, Grace Osgood. The subject approach to books. In: *Catalogers' and classifiers' yearbook*. no. 2 (1930) p. 9-23.

⁴One might suggest the American Association of university professors, the American Historical association, the Modern Language association, the American Sociological society, the National Education association, the American Association for the advancement of science, etc.

minimum standards for various phases of library work. But such a committee as the one suggested would be concerned with something more than a mere minimum standard. Essential as such standards are for those marginal libraries whose book collections and accommodations are insufficient to render their positions secure, the library profession must concern itself with something more than the minimum if it is to achieve the position in the learned world that it deserves.

Neither, by the same token, would one be so foolish as to see in this suggestion a panacea for all the ills that beset the library profession. The financial responsibility involved in placing such a system in operation might render it prohibitive. The task of the committee would be by no means an easy one and doubtless the results would still leave much to be desired.

Nevertheless the advantages of such a scheme appear obvious. As in the past librarianship suffered from insufficient

centralization, so today it is seriously endangered by excessive inbreeding. Criticism from external sources, even tho it may occasionally be extreme and unjustified, is always stimulating. The work of a committee such as the one suggested could do much toward the encouragement and formulation of constructive criticism. It could help greatly to freshen and revivify the outlook of the "educational librarian." It would, in short, be the ferment that would leaven every discussion of library problems. Essential as research should be in library service, it can be of use only when it is based on a thoro realization of the position which the library holds in relation to research in all its forms. Once more let it be iterated: the duties of the librarian, like those of the administrator, are not ends in themselves, and the moment they become so they stagnate and defeat their own purpose. This is the foundation which underlies any program having for its objective the realization of the library as the cortex of the academic body politic.

Censorship of Books by the Library

Margery Bedinger, librarian, State School of Mines, Butte, Montana

I propose to confine myself to the heart of the censorship question, namely, books of literature or fiction that have been kept away from the public on the plea of the danger they carried to the morals of the young. Concerning writing of which the only intent is frank salaciousness, I have nothing to say. There has never been doubt among librarians as to how it should be treated. But we have been much concerned as to what our responsibility was toward "immature" minds in regard to books of fiction or literature that treated sex relations in a frank or unconventional way, or one contrary to what we considered

the proper way. Our treatment of this difficulty has been as diverse as our personalities, and founded chiefly, I believe, on our individual emotional reactions rather than on clear, logical consideration. . . . It is time now that scientific investigation and logic took the place of the emotion and sentiment that have for the most part determined our decisions.

As a first step in this process, let us examine for a moment the present world. When thinking about conditions today, I often remember that episode in "Alice through the looking glass" where the White Queen took Alice's hand and sud-

denly began running hard, murmuring, "Faster! faster!" When they finally stopped Alice noticed that they were just where they had been when they started, and the Queen explained that in Looking Glass Land one had to move very quickly at times just to keep up. The difference between the modern world and Looking Glass Land is that now-a-days one may never stop, but must always be moving in order to keep up; always growing, always reaching, always broadening out. Then again—and upon this hangs my whole argument—it is Alice who takes the White Queen by the hand and urges and pulls her along! For movement and continued change are the great characteristics of our age. Transition is not one, for it implies going from one static set of conditions to another static, more or less permanent set of conditions; whereas all signs now point to a future of continuous change at faster and ever faster pace.

Basically it has been our increase in scientific knowledge leading to mechanical invention that has caused the unprecedented change in our ways of living and the increase in our social problem, and this is a process that repeats itself ever faster and faster; for scientific knowledge leads to further discoveries in science, and these in turn to more and more inventions, causing greater and greater change in social conditions. We all know what tremendous changes the automobile has made in our way of living, how it has affected home life, the relations of the sexes, economic and industrial conditions, bringing all parts of the country near together and revolutionizing farm life. In the light of this knowledge, who can say what greater changes, what more acute social problems, what differences in mental attitudes the airplane will bring about! We know something of what steam and electric power have done to transform our world, but who can foresee what the

ability to utilize atomic energy would bring? And many people feel that that discovery is only a matter of time.

Change then, if we may speak in a paradox, is here to stay. Change in mode of living, change in social conditions, change in mental attitude and, inevitably as a necessary and most desirable concomitant, change in conceptions of right or fitting conduct, or in other words, morals. As everyone knows, morals have always been essentially customs. They have been accepted modes of action which the best judges of the group felt to be most appropriate and fitting under the existing conditions. As the conditions changed and the group grew wiser, current codes of morals changed, and quite properly.

In the past, however, change has been slow; the difference between the conditions faced by one generation and the next has been slight; the morals and judgments of the parents served with imperceptible modification for the children. The past could and did guide the future. But in the present era the tremendous increase in amount of change and the terrific acceleration in rate have brought about a radically different situation.

No one, old and experienced tho he may be, can with any degree of accuracy foretell what conditions will obtain 25 years from now. A parent has but the vaguest notion as to the sort of world his son and his daughter will face when they grow to maturity. Right and wrong are thorny problems to the really thoughtful at best, but how very difficult they become when one faces conditions that never existed in the past; one's ready made maxims and rules of conduct handed down by one's forebears do not fit. One cannot say "What would my parents have me to do in this case?" because one's parents probably would be more bewildered even than oneself. And if today one feels one knows what is

right, will one have the same assurance tomorrow, when scientific knowledge, social conditions and public opinion may all be radically changed?

How then can we, the White Queens, keep up with this rapidly moving world of ours? And what about Alice, who will presumably live longer than we and therefore have to steer thru more tempestuous and less charted seas than have tossed us about? Critical judgment must be developed; tolerance and an open mind must always be present; a detached, impersonal view must be steadily adhered to; there must be a full and frank admission of our own limitations; and above all, a wide and deep sympathy and a knowledge of life and humanity must be consistently sought and cultivated.

But even at our wisest, we cannot solve the problem; the shaping of the standards of conduct for the future lies not in our hands, but in those of youth. To them is the task of finding the right and fitting lines of conduct for the ever-changing conditions of the shifting future.

Yet we do have a part in this great task. It is one the older generation has ever had, namely, to prepare youth to do its work. And here comes the problem of librarians, for as leaders of educational institutions we must do our share toward that preparation and training of youth for the shaping of the ideals of the future.

Our problem then resolves itself into how we in our libraries can help youth to achieve that critical judgment and detachment, that tolerance and open mindedness which the bristling difficulties of the ever-changing future will demand for their solution; and my thesis is that the way we can do this is thru offering to youth the fullest possible information upon all subjects that may have any bearing upon the questions, and this practically means all subjects whatever,

for only by means of the widest and most pertinent knowledge can our youth be equipped to face and conquer situations it will have to meet. For these will not be simple; as society evolves, it gets more and more complex; mechanical invention and the rapidity of the life it brings make increasingly for confusion of issues and complications of situation. Rarely are situations clear cut. Particularly is this true as our knowledge of human nature grows. A man who was that of a generation ago as a simple murderer and treated as such, today may be considered mentally ill and entitled to our best institutional care. In the future, perhaps, that will go further and the conditions that produced the mental disease causing the crime will be attacked; and so both the ailment and the murder be prevented. But how much more knowledge, how infinitely higher developed a public opinion is required to deal thus with the problem of murder rather than waiting until some one has been killed and then putting to death the one who did the deed.

With this that in mind of preparing the next generation to solve ever-changing problems of infinite delicacy and intricacy, requiring wide and deep knowledge, what shall our attitude be toward the books we select for our shelves? I believe there are two criteria to be constantly borne in mind, the intent of the author and the success of the execution. Did the author sincerely desire to present a true picture of life? And has he succeeded in thus presenting a true picture of life? In other words, is he sincere and is he skilful?

Now no one knows what "life" really is, because it is a different experience for every person; so in order to get anything like a rounded whole to help us make up our own minds and solve our own problems, we need to get the points of view of as many people as possible.

The old idea was that only those books that presented approximately the point of view that we had ourselves should be shown to our youth. A radically different one that ran counter to the accepted customs of our day shocked us, and we immediately felt it would harm the "immature" persons whose ideas were not formed and who had not the balance and poise of our maturity.

And just here, may I digress to bring up a point that has long clamored in my mind? Who, after all, are we to set ourselves up as capable of saying what will or will not harm another person? What do we, as a group, really know about life anyway—and how much of the deep secrets of the human heart can we fathom? Librarians are a very homogeneous group; with negligible exceptions, we come from the same sort of families, have had the same sort of (and here's the pity) sheltered upbringing, moved in the same protected and genteel circles all our lives and, to crown all, our ranks consist overwhelmingly of one sex; very, very largely of unmarried members of that sex. I am saying nothing whatever about the potential breadth of women and their capacity for knowledge of a deep, truly sympathetic kind as opposed to that of men; in fact, what I say of prudishness and narrowness of outlook and experience applies by and large quite as much to the men in the library profession as to the women, but I do say that the refined and well brought up American girl of pre-war days who went into the eminently genteel profession of library work, without even the broadening experience of marriage, found it very hard to know what life was all about and what people were really like—harder than any other type of men or women I can think of. The sheltered, protected girl is more handicapped when she tries to cope with the world and form wise decisions than any other sort of normal person whatever.

Then, when she goes into library work she finds, contrary to the business woman or the women in some of the other professions, that all her associates are girls like herself, with homes, rearing and experience like hers. And so again, she is kept away from broadening contacts.

O, my sisters, we have that that upon us lay the heavy burden of guarding the morals of the youth, 90 per cent of whom could tell us many things! And funniest of all, we really thought we had the wisdom and ability to do it! And the way we tried to help our young people was to weigh them down with the same narrowing shackles of ignorance and limited experience that we ourselves were struggling with. And I speak with great seriousness, now, for I believe all of us who are sincere and can face ourselves and the facts, will admit that often and often we did not and do not know what was the truly right course of action in circumstances in which we found ourselves. We know what we did, but were we little heroines or silly fools, hypocrites or just cowards, truly wise or did we make mountains out of mole-hills? And how would we act if a similar situation came up? Nor are we to be surprised at this, for, to quote Havellock Ellis in his chapter on morals from his *Dance of life*, "In our human world the precision of mechanism is forever impossible. The indefiniteness of morality is a part of its necessary imperfections." We cannot lay out specific, definite and detailed rules to cover every case. How foolish, how laughable, how contemptibly pathetic then that we should say to a boy or girl at the age when they are most anxious to find out about life and get their ideas in order:

No, you must not read this book, because the hero said, that or did this or that, that really was not nice, and you know we want you to grow up to be a nice man. Of course, these things are out in all the newspapers, flash forth on the movie screens,

and our news stands are full of them. From them you can learn many things shown alone and out of proportion to life as a whole and portrayed in a way to arouse and excite you, so you will surely get a perverted idea, but I cannot let you read some of the greatest literature of all time because of some things that are dealt with. To be sure they are dealt with by great artists who knew life and humanity and described these things as they exist and in the proper perspective, but they are not really nice.

I also cannot let you read some of the modern books by lesser authors, maybe not lasting nor great, yet sincerely striving to solve some of the problems that the age is fairly bristling with and that I know are occupying your thots. No, you must get your standards and ideals of conduct without the help of sincere and great literature. You will be faced with situations like these as soon as or even before you leave home, but you should not really know about those things because really nice people do not admit such things exist.

Is this an attitude that tends to help or harm youth; is it one that will send them to us for guidance when they feel they need it or will they, as a result of this, throw us and our ideas overboard and seek their salvation on their own? I believe the reason modern youths have thrown over authority and have refused to follow blindly what their elders thought wise to tell them, is not because they are headstrong, but because the older generation has refused them the knowledge they must have in order to understand a little and adjust themselves to the task of steering their way thru life. For these youngsters, aroused by the war, are not going to be content with the half life of some of their elders; no Harriet Freens among them; they demand to live fully, deeply and intelligently, and for this great adventure much knowledge, much thinking, much weighing of values is needed and they are aware of this. Again I ask, what are we to keep knowledge from them?

And so I come back to my contention which is, that instead of keeping information away from youth, it is rather our duty to let them have all we can give them, provided it is true knowledge sincerely expressed. I maintain that it

is dangerous for us to try to limit their knowledge of life. In such a case, if they chose wrongly, might they not come back to us and say, "If I had known the whole truth, had access to the great artists and thinkers, and the sincere thinkers of my own day, I would not have acted as I did. When you knew I would meet these dangers and would have to make these decisions, why did you treat me as a child?"

And if, contrary to my contention, it were best to pick and choose what young people should know, I still maintain that it is presumptuous and indeed absurd for the ordinary librarian to do the picking and choosing; when we have especially trained people for the intermediate rooms, then perhaps those people might. But if it must be done (and remember I firmly believe it should not be done), I should far rather have a committee of child psychologists, juvenile court judges, probation officers and trained psychiatrists pass upon the books, than leave it to the personal reaction of women or men not widely experienced in life and knowing little of the difficulties and attitude of youth in the changing world today.

It is difficult for us to take the course I recommend. It is only human to want to be the ones to guide and control, and in our young days our elders told us what we should and should not do. It seems hard, now that our turn to hold the wheel has come, that we must efface our own opinions and leave the future to those who will live in it. Especially easy is it to say, "Thou shall and thou shalt not," and requiring of much difficult wisdom is it to say instead, "Here is this fact, and this evidence; now what do *you* make of it?"

Beside the blow to our vanity, our love of the reformers' role and our distaste for the irksome, undramatic virtues of tolerance and open mindedness, is linked that fear to trust another per-

son, especially a younger one, so deeply rooted in human nature. How much one might say on that subject! To calm these fears, then, let us listen to John Galsworthy's bit of wisdom taken from his essay on censorship in the Inn of tranquillity. He says, "The people as a whole, unprotected by the despotic judgments of single persons, have enough strength and wisdom to know what is and what is not harmful to themselves." I believe this is more true of the young of today than of any other recent period, so thotful, so searching, so passionately sincere does one find them—the earnest ones, that is. There will always be light and frivolous people, old and young, who for the most part trouble libraries but little, and are little touched one way or the other by what they find there. So let us take heart; Mr. Galsworthy knows human nature better than most of us; the fathers of our country staked everything on their trust in human nature; possibly it is not so easily corrupted by a chance book as we think.

Then consider Havelock Ellis, in the chapter on morals in his *Dance of life*. "There is no occasion for anyone who is told he has written a 'moral' book to be unduly elated, or when he is told that his book is 'immoral' to be unduly cast down. Neither the one book nor the other can have more than the faintest effect on the march of the great, compact majority of the social army." And so, if a book is misused in our libraries by someone, that is not such a great matter, compared with what Dr. Joseph Collins calls the "unforgiveable sin" of parents: that of not telling their children the facts of sex.

Remember, too, that half truths are dangerous; and so books that tell only part of the truth about life while pretending to give a whole picture are more dangerous than those which fight shy of nothing.

Another thot to allay our fears is the one that if the present accepted code of morals is really the best, it will stand the test of examination. And if it cannot stand this examination and testing, the probability is that it had better give way to one that can.

The question of the abnormal has been answered by Miss Freeman when she says that they must be cared for in a way that will not harm the normal; that "the world must be made safe for normal people," and that they must no longer be made to suffer for the abnormal.

The problem of criticism from self appointed guardians of public morals in the community was handled excellently in Syracuse when Elmer Gantry was living its seven days of wonder. In Mr. Paine's account of that in *New York Libraries*, his attitude was that if the library is an educational institution as we constantly claim, we must lead and lead fearlessly, not waiting until the public pushes us, as has been too often the way in the past. And as leaders, we must be prepared for criticism.

Let us then once more affirm our faith in the essential goodness and wise judgment of human nature, remembering our heritage as Americans; and let us strive ourselves to achieve that tolerance and breadth, that scientific and logical detachment which alone will enable the men and women of the future to deal with the problems of the future. And by all means let us allow our youth, who are the men and women of the future, to have access thru our libraries to as much true, sincere information and opinion as possible about all sides of that many-faceted jewel we call "life." Then they may be forearmed, because forewarned; and may at least learn the types of problems that they must solve and the nature of the jungle undergrowth thru which they must cut a way.

Causes for Obsolescence of Library Buildings¹

Jesse Cunningham, librarian, Cossitt library, Memphis, Tennessee.

Within the last generation many splendid library buildings have supplanted older ones. At the dedication exercises we have almost always been sure to hear that the new building has been designed to meet the needs of a century. Our actual experience has been that almost every one of these buildings has needed expansion within 15 years. The usual reason for this need of expansion has been that some feature of library operation has developed to a degree not foreseeable at the time of planning the building. Without intending to be pessimistic, I unhesitatingly assert that the latest library built, however seemingly well projected into the future, may have the same fate as any building that has preceded it.

The difficulties are these: Every library has four kinds of capacities, each one menaced by two kinds of obsolescence. To produce the perfect library, indefinitely sufficient for each type of capacity and indefinitely secure against any kind of obsolescence, the perfect architect and perfect librarian need to gain the constant association of a perfect prophet.

Obsolescence is bound to begin with the first day of actual operation and increase daily with the growth of use that may have been developed by the very success of a feature of planning introduced for the purpose of postponing obsolescence. Consider first the four kinds of capacities—book storage, book display, worker space and reader space. Then apply to each both kinds of obsolescence menace—the obsolescence of space facilities and obsolescence of apparatus and function relationships incorporated into the structural layout.

Book storage, represented by the stacks, at first appears to be one kind

of capacity not so difficult to determine, but is it? The past history of the library may have indicated an annual gain of accessions amounting to five per cent. By providing a future stack capacity four times the present need, a future of 60 years seems to have been secured. Then unanticipated benefactions of books or dollars may within five years treble the number of annual accessions and so reduce tremendously the time limit of growth capacity. Book display, represented by all of the open shelves in any circulation or reader department, is one capacity more readily determinable, at least for any particular time if not on an indefinitely continuing basis. The open shelves are designed to hold just that fraction of most frequently used books or that fraction of stock needed to represent selected fields of interest. From another point of view, the mileage of open shelves is dependent upon the size and number of areas designed for reader and borrower occupation. Work space capacity may often be determined with some margin of safety by a sensible consideration of its importance during even the first year or two of use of the building. Reader capacity requirements are determinable by formula only so long as the formula will work. *Obsolescence is bound to begin with the first day of actual use and increase daily with the growth of use that may have been developed by the very success of the feature of planning introduced for the purpose of postponing obsolescence.*

A capacious reading room equipped to seat comfortably twice as many readers as may be expected at any one time may, by merely meeting requirements, become popular and then thru popularity become inadequate. The development of a special department, designed to relieve the general reading room or circulation department quite as much as to furnish

¹ Read at the Library Buildings round table, A. L. A. meeting, New Haven, Connecticut, June 27.

improved service to a group of library users, may create an unanticipated increased use, which, however desirable, does not happen to afford the expansion relief that was expected.

There are no certain formulae and we should all be glad that it is probable that the biggest and best library is not large enough for generation after generation and that we have not already found all of the best devices of arrangement and equipment. The progress of each generation will probably require of libraries just as it requires of any utilitarian building a different type of building. Could the best library of today with all of its 1931 improvements upon 1920 to 1930 inventions have been projected back 50 years to furnish library service to the public or college of 1880, it would have been a failure. Features of use now demanding definite physical relationships and space assignments would then have been an element of inconvenience, expense and even uselessness to the same degree that the latest model automobile would have been useless to grandfather when for driving power he had to depend upon flesh and not gasoline horsepower.

Without any fear of opposition but sober authoritative criticism, cannot some one say that the best library building is a complete unit and not a fraction of a future unit, the proper organization of which might displace every nicety of arrangement fixed suitably for only one set of conditions? Is it not more advantageous to plan for a definite and even brief but knowable future than to load on our successors a huge and expensive building that may defy any ideal adaptation to the needs of a new conception of library service just as much out of our mind now as the idea of the multiple instead of the single textbook was to the ablest educators two generations ago? Is it not better to build a library that we have reason to hope may

be ideal for at least the first day of its occupation than to aim half a century ahead and miss that date by 35 years? Would you not dread to move into a new palatial building knowing that its internal arrangement could not be ideal until after the organization had grown to proportions beyond the probabilities of more than a decade? These ideals are not advanced in criticism of any building but are rather directed toward attitudes of thot and expectancies so often expressed by the press and the public when any library is built anywhere. For one, I am glad that our most capable predecessors, still worthy of our admiration, could not plan a library that would now appear by mass capacity to be large enough to prevent the erection of buildings more suitable to the needs of this generation.

Causes of Obsolescence

Definition of Obsolescence

A. Location and size of building

- 1) What was once a good site may become unsuitable for library purposes
- 2) Growth of library's service beyond capacities of building

B. Internal arrangement and devices of fixed equipment

- 1) Growth of library's book collection and book use may require different division of stack and open shelf spaces
- 2) Developed need of department segregation
 - a) For readers and borrowers
 - b) For staff operation
- 3) Greater effectiveness of improved service arrangements
 - a) Heat
 - oil vs coal
 - steam vs hot air
 - thermostatic variations vs single standard of heat for entire building
 - b) Ventilation
 - Independent operation for each room vs single fan for entire building
 - c) Lighting
 - Electricity vs gas
 - semi-direct vs direct
 - ceiling vs desk or individual light
 - d) Communication
 - Teletype vs pneumatic tube
 - telephones vs messengers

elevators vs book lifts and carriers

e) Cleaning

Central vacuum cleaner vs brooms or moveable cleaners

Definition of "Capacities"

Storage—Stacks for books less active, etc.

Display—Open shelves for active books, etc. Public catalog and bulletin boards
Work—Office space for administrative, technical and clerical work

Reader—Seat and table space in reading rooms

Elbow room about open shelf spaces and points of contact between borrower and library assistant

Letters—Information and Discussion

News Items Wanted

Miss C. R. Barnett, librarian of U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., sends out a request for news items for the monthly bulletin, *Agricultural Library Notes*. Notes on changes in personnel, reorganization plans, new publications, bibliographies and bibliographical work in progress or any other items of interest to agricultural librarians will be appreciated.

Free Distribution

A list of recent books on Physics, similar to the one on Pure Chemistry recently published (see p. 271), has been completed for the use of the branches of the Queens Borough public library. A few copies are available for free distribution and may be obtained from Jean K. Taylor, Queens Borough public library, Jamaica, New York.

Magazines Offered

The Public library, Chisholm, Minnesota, has a number of magazines which it offers to send to any library willing to pay transportation charges.

The material includes a number of volumes of the following: *American Machinist*, *Architectural Record*, *Country Life*, *Electrical World*, *Engineering and Mining Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Iron Age*, *Parks and Recreation*, *Playground*, *Railway Age*, *Skillings' Mining Review*, and *Sunset Magazine*.

Radio in Book Week

The national radio broadcast for Book Week is announced for Wednesday, November 18, 2:30-3:00, Eastern standard time. The American School of the Air will broadcast the program over WABC and 65 stations of the Columbia network.

May Lamberton Becker, nationally known as the literary editor of *St. Nicholas*, reviewer for the *Scholastic* and reader's guide of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, will conduct a "Round the world book cruise" and will introduce three outstanding authors of books for young people.

Prize Novel Contest

Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, announces a \$20,000 prize contest for the best novel on any subject, open to any author in any country. The manuscripts must be submitted before November 1, 1932, when the contest closes, and must contain not less than 75,000 and not more than 150,000 words.

Complete information will be furnished upon request to Curtis Brown, Ltd., 130 West 42nd Street, New York City.

Important Words from the A.L.A. Meetings

Editor, LIBRARIES:

I should like to add emphasis to some of the important things said by several of the speakers at New Haven meetings.

The ideas presented by Professor R. E. Rogers on p. 358 will repay careful consideration by those who are really concerned with results of the library service which they offer to the community that supports the library.

The extract from the address of Stuart Chase (p. 355) if carefully read with the idea of finding a line of wise suggestion, will result in larger happiness for librarians in small communities, as well as better sources of recreation for the latter.

Publishers of tabloids and cynical editors of the flimsier magazines are "agents provocateurs" in distribution of reading material "deleterious to the mental morale and the requirements of a good life" according to Henry Seidel Canby, editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*. Mr. Canby said he did not refer to indecency, but to "the vulgarizing of life and the sensationalizing of all the emotions to the point of degeneracy."

In maintaining free speech, Mr. Canby declared that the distinction between freedom to express opinion and freedom to use any method of selling printed matter for profit has been lost. "It is not ideas, but profit, that need censoring."

The speaker said libraries must inculcate good reading, but that it is almost as important that they should discourage and decrease foolish reading.

A Beautiful Book

Someone sent me a beautiful book, *The boys and girls of Happy Town*, by Vada Mae Rior. The illustrations by Esther M. Johnson are delicious, and follow the thread of the story in a most fascinating fashion. The whole thing is so simple. The book is intended for very wee children, just beginning to know a book from other pretty things, and carries stories intended to present to the very youngest child listening to

them, familiar scenes and doings that they will all recognize at once. The pictures, done in beautiful colors, are specially a part of the stories, and are really quite fascinating in themselves. The two fairies around whom the stories grow do marvelous things, but is not that what fairies always do? I believe little children will love this book and, moreover, it will do them good! I enjoy looking at this book, and the little tots here want it most of all the stories I tell them, so I am grateful to the kind donor! A.

Dr. H. E. Barnard, director of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, has especially asked the aid of libraries in acquainting the public with Conference findings.

A set of 15 authoritative leaflets based on these findings are now available and may be obtained by sending \$1.25 to the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

Librarians may also wish to secure from the Washington address, the "Children's Charter" in leaflet form for distribution, or chart form to hang on the wall.

Another leaflet, "Books in the child's bill of rights," embodies the recommendations of the Committee on Reading of the White House Conference. Copies of this are now available at A. L. A. Headquarters.

Discontinuance of County Library Experiment

A letter from Alice B. Story, chairman of the Publicity committee, Iowa library association, expresses regret at the discontinuance of the Blackhawk County library experiment. Hard times and increased taxes on farm lands were the main reasons for this procedure.

Monthly--Except August
and September

Libraries

216 W. Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Eileen Ahern, *Editor*

Subscription - - - - - \$3 a year
Current single number - - - - 35 cents

Five copies to one library - - \$12 a year
Foreign subscriptions - - - \$3.50 a year

By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money-orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of **LIBRARIES** should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

A Time to Begin and a Time to End

THE exhibits relating to library service, shown at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, aroused a spirit of emulation in the minds of hundreds of visitors who saw these exhibits, and immediately there began a movement for libraries and their use which continues to the present in a widely expanded and highly developed form. At once there began too, a desire for a library periodical which should meet the need for a general avenue of communication among the small libraries and for the exposition of the new library ideas which were taking root in the whole country, but particularly in the Middle West which, in its accustomed fashion, put forth energy and means to work for the new educational movement. John Cotton Dana, then of the Denver public library, was president of the A. L. A. at the time. Backed by the Executive board of the A. L. A., he proposed that the A. L. A. should issue such a journal for 10 months in the year, at a nominal price to the membership. The idea was enthusiastically received by the Western li-

brarians, but such was not the case with the Easterners.

Finally an arrangement with the Chicago office of the Library Bureau was consummated, by which the latter, with the approval of the Executive board of the A. L. A., began the publication of the proposed journal, *Public Libraries*. The present editor was chosen to take charge of the new venture by A. L. A. committee (J. C. Dana, H. L. Elmen-dorf and Miss Theresa West) and George B. Meleney, then manager of the Chicago Library Bureau. The former gave official recognition and personal support to the new journal, and the latter placed every available assistance to starting it aright. The only requirement laid on the editor by the publishers was to make a periodical that should merit the approval of the best library opinion and be helpful to all libraries, particularly the small ones and those struggling to bring the best service possible to their constituents. The editor accepted the responsibility with a glad heart and a ready will. That same purpose has animated the work of the magazine down

to the present time. Whether the purpose of the magazine has been accomplished or not must be answered by those whom it touched and in the verdict of the years. Nothing could be more spontaneous, more sincere or animated by kindlier feelings than was the attitude of most of the librarians.

The project for the new periodical received approval and support from all parts of the country. A group of leading librarians of that day lent their names as contributing editors to the new periodical, and so appeared in the first few numbers. The names of such well-known, effective librarians as John Cotton Dana, Theresa West, Frederick M. Crunden, Melvil Dewey, Caroline Garland, Caroline Hewins, Hannah P. James, J. N. Larned, Mary W. Plummer, Joseph Rowell, Katherine Sharp and others carried confidence to those who might question what was being done and foreshadowed a friendliness toward the newcomer which has never faltered, and which, thru their successors, has been a firm foundation for mutual understanding thruout all the years.

Modest pride in what *Public Libraries* accomplished seems justifiable. In Chi-

cago and elsewhere, good has been accomplished by the work of the magazine in library service. Emphasis was laid on each forward movement for better and wider use of books. The fullest support was given to wakening ideas about traveling libraries, with an insistent call for a traveling librarian. A permanent secretary and centrally located headquarters for A. L. A. activities were advocated. The ideas of special rooms for children, branch buildings instead of great central libraries, training classes in small libraries, local coöperation with other educational bodies, local summer schools and local library associations were given support.

Its location in Chicago has given the journal a wide field for activity, and the utter absence of any financial responsibility has permitted its work to occupy the field that called for its service bound by nothing except its sole purpose, to extend and assist library service wherever there was opportunity. The good of the cause, pursued with an undaunted purpose to hew straight to the line, letting the chips fall as they may, has been the ruling principle in all the years of service allotted to this library effort—which has come now to its close.

Retirement of L. Stanley Jast

L. Stanley Jast, one of the oldest members of the British Library Association, formerly its secretary, and its outgoing president, retires from his position as chief librarian of the Manchester public libraries, January 1, 1932.

Mr. Jast is probably the most widely known librarian in the British library world. His progressive work in the Public library of Croydon for many years set a high example and made him a target for animated discussions in the

British library assemblages. Mr. Jast has represented his association in the international library congresses with honorable distinction. His several visits to America were events in the American library meetings which he attended. He is a forceful speaker, and always attracts attention and admiration in his discussion of libraries and literature. He has made a definite contribution to the library developments of his day, and it is to be hoped that librarians may enjoy for a long time to come the pith and power of his outspoken opinions.

Death's Toll

Olin S. Davis, well known as an energetic librarian in New England, and particularly in New Hampshire, died on July 24 at his home in Maine. Mr. Davis was librarian of the Public library, Laconia, New Hampshire, for many years. He was a valuable member of the New Hampshire library commission, particularly for his work in establishing traveling libraries in the state. Mr. Davis resigned his work in New Hampshire in 1925 to become librarian of the Fiske University library at Nashville, Tennessee, a post he held until 1927 when he retired to his home at Ocean Park.

Walter L. Brown, for 39 years connected with the Public library of Buffalo, N. Y., died at his home in that city October 16.

Mr. Brown was one of the "solid" men of the library profession. Born in Buffalo, and educated in its schools, his interest in library work began when at 16 he joined the Young Men's association library with which he was connected for five years. Leaving library work for the book business in 1881 he did not return to the profession until 1897 when he was made assistant librarian of the Buffalo Public library under Henry L. Elmendorf. He was appointed librarian on the death of Mr. Elmendorf in 1906. Under Mr. Brown's leadership the Buffalo library maintained its high reputation for service and for professional advancement.

As president of the New York State Library association and as vice-president, president, and committee member of the A. L. A., Mr. Brown served both his state and the national association well. He was held in universal respect and high regard by all who knew him and his work. He was a modest man but alive to the needs of his craft—kindly,

always courteous, with a keen sense of humor—a man of few words but those few words worth hearing. His kind, is needed in doing well the world's work.

The Buffalo library, American library leadership and his many friends sustained a sad loss in the death of Walter L. Brown.

Adah Patton, catalog librarian of the University of Illinois, died October 7 at her home in Urbana. Miss Patton was born in Illinois, graduated from the University of Illinois library school in 1902, was for two years an assistant in the John Crerar library, Chicago, and became a cataloger in the University of Illinois library in 1908. She had been in charge of the catalog department since 1927, and had maintained a very high standard of work in that department.

Miss Patton had contributed a number of articles to professional periodicals, had served on several committees of the Illinois library association and of the American Library Association, and she always took an active interest in everything that would promote the effective use of libraries. And with it all she possessed those fine personal traits which commanded not only a high respect for her as a librarian, but also led her associates to have a real admiration and affection for her.

P. L. W.

Reprint of the Life of Hawthorne

In response to the recent agitation relating to the prevention of the destruction of the original plates of Julian Hawthorne's biography of his parents, Nathaniel Hawthorne and his wife, the Houghton Mifflin Company has agreed to reprint the biography, to be sold in the original two volumes for \$5, if 270 orders are received from librarians by January 1, 1932.

Ideals for a State Library¹

Mary Eileen Ahern, formerly state librarian of Indiana

The term state library should denote a library designed, developed and administered in accordance with its name, that is, a library from which any one in the state can receive such help from the print on its shelves and from the people on its staff as would help him find, develop and apply useful information on any legitimate problem. No one questions the purpose of a city library, of the national library, of any well-organized special library; a definite mental picture springs into existence at the mention of any of these. Why is this? What vision, what picture or what idea comes up at the sound of the phrase "the state library"? And why is this so?

"The things we love earliest, we love best." My entrance into library organization was thru the state library door. At the first American Library Association meeting that I attended, as the representative of the Indiana state library, I joined with Mr. Wallis of Colorado and Mr. Perkins of California in a plan to form a state library section of the association in which might be developed ideas of good state library service. But the bane of library service that so often works *now* was so strong that at the meeting which we planned for the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, I was the only one of the California group that was present. But when I tell you that Melvil Dewey *was* there, and that some eight or ten others from the Mississippi Valley connected with state library affairs were present, you may guess something was done, tho not much more than talk! So without going more into detail of those early years, you may guess again. And since one is allowed to guess a lot without being odd in New England, you may rightly guess that I be-

lieve the before-mentioned bane that has always worked such havoc with the possibilities of great usefulness and valuable leadership of a state library is personal selfishness, however many disguises it may wear or excuses it may offer for its presence.

If this be so, and I verily believe it is, the first ideal most needful to bring state library service into its proper place, it seems to me, is the cultivation of and insistence upon an unselfish, professional spirit that will go to the utmost limits to uphold the idea of the right of the state library to spend its life and means for the only excuse it has for existence—to serve the state. Too many times, as everyone knows, the power and possibility of helpfulness of state libraries are lost because of the unrighteous selfishness of those who possess neither power nor knowledge sufficient to put the library in its right place as an educational institution, tax-supported by all the people but wrongfully appropriated to the selfish interests of person and party.

Having reviewed in this fashion the morale that has generally pervaded the situation surrounding the state library, may we turn to the other side of the matter and consider for a moment some aspects of the subject that would answer the question put to me, and thereby to you, by the very efficient one who is president of this honorable body, What ideals would you set up for a state library?

If a high ideal of service were honestly and professionally held by any number of persons responsible for the matter, for instance by the National Association of state libraries, the ideal that would make the strongest appeal and be most worthy is that which sees the state library a "library in fact as well as in name."

In an address before this body many years ago, I urged that the state library

¹ Read before the National Association of state libraries, New Haven, Connecticut, June 22, 1931. This paper is presented here by request.

be made an important reservoir of the library interests of the state with a ramifying connection extending from the highest to the lowest form of library service in the state. Is that not a worthy ideal?

On the library's shelves should be a collection of the most valuable and perhaps most expensive reference books that are sometimes needed by scholars, students and serious readers in every state, subject to use in the library rooms and open to loan for a limited period to the tax-supported educational institutions of the state, thus avoiding the great expense often caused by duplication. Would that not be an ideal?

The state library should cover all forms of research and study, particularly in those lines of investigation that would be natural to the locality of the various interests of the state. Such a plan would provide at one place, within convenient reach of the universities, colleges, investigating committees and research students of the state, material to which under proper regulations easy access might be obtained. And in this scheme a place would be provided for a sympathetic, understanding, well-informed person who would meet the problems and puzzling questions brought in by younger and less well-equipped librarians of the small communities of the state. In addition, there might be under proper rules and regulations in any state library such a connection with the national library as would still further place at the service of any institution or scholar of a state the wonderful resources of the national library—an incentive to study and a means of development that is now often curtailed because of the lack of knowledge on the part of the public and the student of such possibilities of helpfulness. On the part of those in the service of many state libraries there is a lack not only of knowledge of any such possible arrange-

ments, but also of the professional knowledge which would enable them to understand such requests as are made on their own libraries.

When one sees the unity of purpose, effective coöperation and economic service that are to be found in the state service of a few state libraries, such as are in California, New York, Indiana, Oregon, New Jersey and in some less degree in a few other states, and the connection that exists between the different departments of library service for the state—training classes, traveling libraries, extension service, distribution of documents, public school and rural debate service—does not one see worthy ideals that might be followed with great advantage, both to librarianship and to the spread of general intelligence of the public, by a continuous and consistent service of that kind in all state libraries? And if we should answer honestly the question why this is not possible, would it give us another worthy ideal? I think not!

If one should ask why there should be, as was cited some time ago, in one capital seven libraries serving state interests under different authorities, differently organized, differently administered, each with separate equipment and overhead at the expense of the taxpayers of the state, would the answer contain an ideal to be advocated or followed? Again, I think not! Would it not be better that there were in that capital a good, strong, well-organized state library under the direction of a librarian who is well learned in the knowledge of books, well adapted to the various duties that would devolve upon the director of a state library, and who felt within his soul in regard to his work, "To this purpose was I born"?

Profiting by the ideas set forth in Zona Gale's lecture on implications, I have presented in this desultory fashion the secret desire of my whole library career—to see the state library come in-

to its own as a scholarly, educational, forward-moving, leading exponent of the educational intent and activities of a whole state; and while I cannot now expect to see its accomplishment, I can still hope that the good seeds that were planted by Melvil Dewey, Mary E. Spencer, James L. Gillis and Cornelia Marvin, as to the place and power of the state library as an educational institution, will yet come into valuable fruition.

In thinking over the question which Miss Skogh asked me to discuss, I inquired of one who has contributed largely to the development of good library service, What do you think is the greatest obstacle to the improvement of state library service? The reply was "Politics." Well, perhaps, in the understanding of the day, that answer may be accepted but we know it is a wrong use of the once honorable term politics. The great hymn writer, Charles Wesley, once answered questions as to the suitability of some of the tunes he was employing by asking another question, Why should the devil have all the good tunes for his work? Why, and why again, in the field of state craft should the world submit to the machinations of selfish if not evil men as they use the once honored word "politics" to cover their nefarious schemes? I dissent from the answer that politics (thinking of the true and original sense of that word) is the cause of poor state library service or any poor public service, and I insist that the fundamental basis of all the ills from which our government suffers is based on personal selfishness.

And so I conclude by asking, Why should any state library be used in a selfish, personal game of battledore and shuttlecock? Why should any state library be placed in charge of one who for any reason is not prepared to administer honestly the same, as near to the highest ideals of such an educational institution as can be attained?

On Too Much Reading¹

Library conventions hear much, and properly, of how to increase the use of books. Is enough said of the disastrous effects of too much reading? It would be an understatement to assert that of all reading in newspapers, magazines and books, perhaps one-third is positively valuable for the intellect and the imagination; perhaps one-third can be reckoned only as an anesthetic or a sedative and useful only as drugs are useful (which is by no means a deprecating comparison); and a final third is positively deleterious to mental morale and the requirements of a good life.

No previous age would have allowed such wholesale demoralization of the intellect and the morals for the sake of private profit as results from the garbage browsing which is going on everywhere now in this country. As certainly as good reading educates, this kind of reading de-educates. I do not refer to indecency or any of the specific charges which moralists might bring against our current writing, but to what seems to me something much more serious, the vulgarizing of life and the sensationalizing of all the emotions to the point of degeneracy.

We have established thru infinite difficulties free speech, which is good, but in our determination to keep it have lost sight of a very important distinction between freedom to express opinion and freedom to use any method of selling printed matter which will bring in a profit. If the principle upon which tabloid journalism operates were reduced to writing, it would shock the most hardened battener upon sensationalism. It is not ideas, but profit, that need censoring.

Libraries of course are by no means chargeable with the crimes of advertis-

¹ Extracts from an address by Henry Seidel Canby, editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, before the College and Reference section of the A. L. A., June 26.

ing journalism. Their chief duty is positive rather than negative. They must obviously inculcate good reading, but it is almost as important that they should discourage and decrease foolish reading. I do not advocate making good books hard to get, altho something can be said for this idea, but I do emphatically hope to see a restriction upon the number of our books and a brake upon indiscriminate reading.

One good reading hour is of course worth five thin ones; and if too many Americans are not readers in any true sense of the word, it is because there are no results from thin reading that tempt them. Book stuffers and print swallows, whether college professors or stenographers, show no results in either character or conversation.

But how restrict or guide, especially in a library? I suggest that every library should develop at least one book taster whose function should be like that of the king's food taster when a different kind of poison was suspected. I feel that this is a specialty which has little to do with organization, purchase or distribution. It requires a developed critical taste, well based on a broad education, and a power of selection which is really art as much as knowledge. Librarians, I think, have been affected by the same noble response to our ideal of educating everybody which has so deeply affected our educational system. They see books in terms of the wants of the democracy, and this is by no means seeing them critically. They must pull back (or someone in a library must pull back) from popular demand, and pull back with tact and common sense. We cannot forever give the public just what it wants, without betraying the people and ourselves. We have been filling our shelves with cheap new lamps in place of the good old ones. And, conversely, we have been keeping worn-out favorites when there are better new models.

May I suggest that if a good book taster could reduce the number of books purchased or kept, some of the money saved might be profitably spent in making the books on hand attractive? Good binding instead of what you usually get on an old book in a public library, or better still a fresh and clean reprint instead of a dirty, badly typed original, would do much to satisfy the client who thinks only the book he saw advertised last week can be good. I realize, of course, the news value of new books, and am violently against the principle of reading old books just *because* they are old. But here I should do as the publishers do—get expert advice which would help me to save in my purchasing, and then cut my inevitable losses in experimental purchasing as quickly as possible while the inferior goods were still salable.

The best critics of the value and readability of books should not, as now, be in the service of the publishers. (A publisher's reader is by no means, and never has been, the hack he is supposed to be. He is an expert of the highest category.) They should somehow, somewhere, be working for the libraries.

We are at the beginning of a new era, which is not so new after all. We shall have to economize in the next decades in many things, among them mental energy. Both our schools and our libraries will have to respond. It will not be enough to spread a table. There will have to be more consideration than before of the actual results of both general education and of general reading. The profit making organizations will never do this until they are forced—as eventually they will be. But the service institutions, such as the libraries, of which this age may well be proud, can and will lead. Librarians especially must develop the science and the art and the business of criticism or be buried and overwhelmed in masses of print. They must become, more than ever before, tutors,

and so put themselves in line with the most hopeful development in modern education. They must sow good reading with the right hand while they pull up the weeds of bad reading with the left.

Librarianship Among the Professions¹

Just as the consolidated school has been found to be the practical solution of the rural education problem, so has the county library been promoted as the ideal agent for the giving of a universal library service. While progress in this direction now seems slow, still we find that the public, when once really convinced of its great value, actually demands it. With this great expansion now in sight, it well behooves librarians to consider their work more seriously, for a big job can only be accomplished by workmen fully ready for the task. Librarians, in order to give the service the public has a right to demand, must be really of a professional class, and librarianship itself be universally and legally recognized as a profession.

What is a profession? The Standard dictionary provides a good definition: "An occupation that properly involves a liberal education or its equivalent, and mental rather than manual labor. Any calling or occupation involving special mental and other attainments or special discipline." If librarians are of a professional class they must possess, therefore, both culture and special training for their particular work. More and more is this true, and the value of library schools in the training of our library workers has been generally recognized. Because of the high demands of the calling, the entrance requirements to library schools have steadily risen until now two years of college work are considered the minimum and college

graduation the normal requirement.

Civic and educational institutions have too often been of the idea that mere appointment to a library position is enough to make the appointee a "full-fledged" librarian. Such procedure, while uncommon, is not so rare as to cause great surprise in the library world. No profession can be recognized as such by the general public as long as such conditions prevail. If we are to achieve a definite professional status, we must work for some system of registration for our members, so that the requirements for admission to the field will prevent the unfit from applying for admission and at the same time protect the public that is paying the bill.

Carved in stone over the main entrance of the St. Louis public library are these words of Frederick M. Crunden, its former librarian: "Recorded thought is our chief heritage from the past, the most lasting legacy we can leave to the future. Books are the most enduring monuments of man's achievements. Only through books can civilization become cumulative." As an agent in the function and mission of the book, the librarian is most essential and important. His task demands that he have both broad culture and thoro training. His fitness for his task must be a matter of public concern and should be recognized as such by some form of state registration and certification. When such is done, librarianship will occupy its rightful place among the professions.

Library Extension in New England

The A. L. A. *Library Extension News* for October has an excellent survey of current library projects in the New England states. Outstanding items are the following:

Massachusetts—The establishment of regional centers for lending to supplement the small town libraries, instead of

¹ Extracts from the presidential address of James A. McMillen, librarian of Louisiana State University, given at the Southwestern library association meeting, Dallas, Texas, October 29, 1930.

building up a larger central state book service, is a project of the Massachusetts Division of public libraries. It is felt that this could best be accomplished thru state grants to five or six strategically located libraries which would then lend the expensive or unusual book to neighboring small town libraries. Small town library patrons when visiting the regional center, could also borrow direct from the larger library. Grants for regional service would be made thru the State Division of public libraries, which would continue to give book service.

Work with the foreign born in Massachusetts is of such magnitude that it has its own department with a specialist in charge.

Maine—The Maine state library is promoting the district system as the larger unit adapted to conditions in that state. In the district plan the city or large town library becomes the center of a local area, the surrounding rural towns voting an appropriation for the city library in return for which their citizens have free use of the city library and collections of books are sent to the town for lending.

The bookmobile is the latest project of the Maine state library. Deposit stations are being established in towns without local library service and small public libraries are being visited both for book and advisory service.

Vermont—The Vermont rural library project is reinforcing the work of 28 small town libraries in a region comprising parts of three counties. The regional librarian is making frequent visits to these libraries in a small book auto from which books are loaned to freshen up their book collections. Talks on books and library facilities are an important part of the work of the regional librarian.

"Rural Vermont—a program for the future," just published, is the first rural

survey covering an entire state which has ever been made. It may be purchased from the Vermont Commission on country life, Burlington.

Book autos—The Maine bookmobile is the latest extension project, tho Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire have been giving book auto service for several years.

State aid—State aid to small public libraries has been a distinctive feature of library service in New England for many years. Now every New England state makes small grants to small public libraries which meet qualifications set up by its state library extension agency.

An Aldermanic Shower

During a discussion among city officials in a northwest community concerning an appropriation for the purchase of books for the library, one of the aldermen suggested that the need for books, which the librarian had set forth so convincingly, would be met if a plea were made to the citizens for a book shower. One of the newspapers of that city satirizes the aldermanic proposal as follows:

One of the most unreasonable officials in the city is the city librarian. He let it be known rather bluntly the other day that he could not run a library without books; and when the city council, following the suggestion of an alderman, fathered a scheme to get him books, he turned up his nose at the proposal and said he wanted books, but not that kind of books. The aldermen, in their simplicity, took the quite understandable position that a book is a book, and assumed that if they could only persuade the people of the city to give the library a shower of books and fill up the vacant shelves, everything would be lovely. But the city librarian, in his superciliousness, took the altogether unreasonable stand that a book is *not* a book at all unless it is the sort of book he is looking for.

It was Charles Lamb, if we remember correctly, who scandalized book-lovers in his day by solemnly asserting that certain books, like encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, etc., were not books. This librarian goes miles further. He would include in the category

of no books: old fiction, out-of-date sociological works, biblical criticism of the last century, volumes in natural science dating prior to the year before last and such like—in fact, pretty nearly everything that would come in the aldermanic shower.

If the public library is too high and mighty to benefit by such a laudable scheme, perhaps some other civic department will be more reasonable. The aldermen require a city hall; at least that is what they say. Why not, seeing that money is difficult to come by, drop their plans for buying the same and give some attention to building a city hall on the donation plan?

We do not know how many bricks it would take to build a city hall, but surely, if the scheme were laid properly before the citizens, and if a vigorous campaign were undertaken, three or four bricks could be counted upon from each citizen. They might not all be of the same shape or color or texture. But that should make no difference. A brick is a brick, and beggars must not be choosers. Doors and windows in variety could be picked up in many parts of the city. Lumber should be plentiful. Steel for the framework could no doubt be found in some metal yard or elsewhere, and there is quite enough plumbing material for several city halls in the second-hand shops along main street.

It would not be easy, of course, to fit this varied material together, and the plans of the building might have to be changed every day or so. But that need not cause any dismay. There are several firms of architects in the city with unused plans they would be glad to donate, and if one did not suit the material, another might. Labor would be required, of course. But relief labor is cheap and efficient, and under aldermanic supervision could not go far wrong. If any little mistakes were made, a coat of stucco would gloss them over effectively.

No doubt it would require some patience and ingenuity to build a city hall in this way; but not any more, we are advised, than it would take to build a library out of the proceeds of the proposed aldermanic shower.

Help the New Survey

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is planning a nation-wide library survey which is to be made by counties and will provide an excellent foundation for later county library organization, if such a step seems the best solution of the local library situation.

Librarians are asked to coöperate with the local club representatives in providing the necessary information.

New York State Library Association Library Week at Lake Placid

The forty-first annual meeting of the New York state library association was held at Lake Placid Club, September 21-26.

For more than a quarter of a century librarians and book people generally, from New York state and from a wide range of surroundings, have gathered at various times at the wonderful Lake Placid Club, largely thru the courtesy and interest of the Nestor of librarians, Dr. Melvil Dewey.

The year 1931 brought the delightful occasion to which librarians beyond the fields in New York, as well as those within its borders, look forward and enjoy to the greatest extent when it comes. The beauties of autumn in mountains and forests, in hills and rivers, in lakes and islands, give a setting that beggars description. Long ago librarians have exhausted all the adjectives they know in trying to tell of the beauties Nature has bestowed upon the place. In addition, all the inventions for comfort and ease, for pleasure and bodily profit that the founders and managers of Lake Placid Club have been able to procure are there in abundance for the enjoyment of the visitors.

More than 321 librarians and their friends gathered at Lake Placid on Saturday before the meeting and stayed until Sunday after the meeting, with a lingering number that added their vacation period to the delightful week of work at the conference. There is a solidarity of interest in the New York state library association meetings which includes librarians of large libraries and small libraries, state librarians, library school directors and their students, librarians of medium sized libraries, with members of the staffs from all these, reinforced by appreciative friends and relatives that make a goodly company for a week's stay in the beautiful region. With

such a fiber in the membership, it follows that the programs offer a high grade of intellectual enjoyment, of professional zeal, of inspirational opportunities, and in fact, something for every grade and kind of persons in library service. More than 15 committees are at work during the year on various topics and problems assigned, on which they bring comprehensive, enjoyable and valuable reports and discussions to the Lake Placid meeting.

The best of the houses are thrown open to the guests. It is understood by the members of Lake Placid Club that the last week in September belongs to the library interests; and indeed it is named in the posters and prints of Lake Placid Club, "Library Week." The sessions are so scattered thruout the week that, unless there is unwise ardor on the part of a few of the librarians, real work is interspersed with occasions of pastime, outdoor entertainments and special opportunities to enjoy what can be found at Lake Placid Club and nowhere else. There is some enjoyable event, either professional or recreational, going on morning, afternoon and evening, and all of such varied kind and quality that literally there is something for everybody. Registrations and acquaintance usually take up the first day, while an entertainment closes the evening.

On the first day, this year, "The viewpoint of the special librarian" was presented by William F. Jacob, librarian of the General Electric Company, Schenectady, wherein all librarians found wise suggestions on making the community appreciate the library. In the afternoon, the college librarians came together to discuss cataloging, a perpetual exercise among them. An acquaintance tea was given by the association's hospitality committee, and in the evening Dorothy Gordon, author of "Sing it yourself," "Around the world in song," "When we were very young," etc., gave an enter-

tainment in which she presented the folk songs of many countries.

Tuesday morning was given up to what might be termed "restricted library service." Mary Eastwood of the New York state library presided.

The library in prison

Austin H. MacCormick, assistant director, U. S. Bureau of Prisons, gave a most entertaining description of the use of books behind bars. In the course of his remarks, Mr. MacCormick said that at the present time there are 500,000 adult human beings behind bars. About 75 per cent of these prisoners have had no school education beyond the sixth grade; but in spite of this they are tremendous readers. Prisons are overcrowded from 50 to 100 per cent, and poorly lighted. About one-half the number are idle all the time. At 5:15 p. m. the prisoners are back in their cells, but it is almost 9:30 before the lights go out. Besides evenings, there are Saturday and Sunday afternoons and holidays for reading.

Mr. MacCormick said that in addition to the lack of funds and the lack of a trained personnel, the prison library presents two or three special problems:

Inaccessibility. There is rigidity of routine except in the yard where there is much jail-house chatter. With a few exceptions prisoners are not permitted to go to the library. The librarian may not circulate among the cells. For the present, the open shelf system cannot be introduced satisfactorily. As far as book stealing is concerned, it cannot happen to any extent. This counts one in favor of open shelves.

Censorship. Two kinds of books are considered troublesome among prisoners: 1) Sex books except when scientifically used for therapy; 2) Crime books—yet one cannot give the prisoners a book which contains a wilder story than may be had in the yards, for jail-house chatter goes far beyond crime books. However, damage is caused when the crime described in the book consists of something which they do themselves. Other types of books such as sea stories can be substituted without penalizing interest.

The chief hopes for encouragement of the use of books behind bars are:

Standard library practice; System of individual reader guidance (There is no difficulty in stimulating interest now); Co-operative relationships between local and state libraries and penal institutions. (There are now full time librarians in the Federal institutions at Atlanta, Leavenworth, Chillicothe, Industrial Institute of Women at Alderson, West Virginia.)

At Atlanta, circulation increased 67 per cent in seven months. At Chillicothe non-fiction circulation increased 103 per cent in five months. At McNeil Island the circulation last year equaled 52,000—an average of 65 books per inmate. At the Kansas City Reformatory circulation reached 700 to 800 per week, an increase of 100 per cent.

Mr. MacCormick believes the librarian should be someone used to dealing with exasperating people with lowdown tastes. There is no reason why women cannot go into penal institution work. The courtesy and deference with which prisoners have treated women is marked. Most prisons outside of New York have to rely upon some "lifer" to run the library. A desired object is to teach some inmate more about the job. It may be some white collar prisoner. Almost without exception, he is conscientious, hardworking and intelligent.

Contrary to belief, many prisons have lots of money. In Minnesota, for instance, every visitor pays 25 cents toward a welfare fund. The library should have a good share of this fund, but more money is needed for satisfactory initial collections. Per person, small institutions need more money than large ones. If the initial collection has been provided, 50 cents per inmate will possibly be adequate to carry along (altho Mr. MacCormick personally estimates it at \$1).

Gifts of books present another problem to prison libraries. At Atlanta it was necessary to throw away 2,000 out of 8,000 volumes.

Sarah B. Askew of the New Jersey public library commission spoke in her usual live fashion on "Coöperative book service to the wards of the state."

After the general session, a round table on "Cataloging in the small library"

was conducted by Juanita Kersey, Oswego City library.

The usual cordial address of welcome by Dr. Melvil Dewey opened the general session on Tuesday night. Dr. Dewey, the first president of the New York library association, gave some pleasant reminiscences on the beginning of things and the progress to the present time. A greeting from the A. L. A. president, Josephine Adams Rathbone, was followed by the president's address on "Libraries in the economic depression." Mr. Miller outlined the help a live library may render by giving out the right kind of books as sources of helpful suggestions.

At the Wednesday morning session, directed by Helen Becker of the Buffalo public library, a paper on "Adult education and the library staff" was read by Milton J. Ferguson, Brooklyn public library. A listener queried about how much self education a staff member obtained in providing for his applicants.

Mrs. Theresa West Elmendorf, in her address on "The library and the adult reader," defined the line between the independent adult reader and those who come under the ministrations of the library adviser.

Clarence P. Sherman of the Public library, Providence, Rhode Island, discussed "The preparedness of the public library for participation in adult education." He said in part:

Today, we are adult education conscious if we never were before. For participation the resources of the entire library should be pooled. In the Providence library the readers' adviser has been located near the circulation department and the catalog has been placed near the reader's adviser.

If the library is not prepared to take part in the adult education movement, it is because of a lack of book knowledge. There are not enough book people. Library schools prepare students to handle books but there is not enough time to come to know what is between covers. To prepare reading courses, a person should have the following qualities: Knowledge of psychology, ability to understand people, ability

to inspire confidence and acquaintance with educational methods.

The absence of effective follow-up knowledge is a weakness in the adult education work of the library. The doctor, unlike the readers' adviser, knows whether his patient lives or dies. It has been said that "Come, read, think, decide" ought to be inscribed on every library. It should be followed rather than the railroad salutation, "Stop, look and listen." Adult education work is the libraries' opportunity to place the library in the class of public utilities.

At the County Libraries round table, presided over by Elizabeth M. Smith of Albany, the next steps in the New York state campaign for county libraries were discussed. Discussion at an afternoon tea dealt with the question, What periodicals shall we bind? The usual difference of opinion was reached.

At the general session in the evening, Dr. James I. Wyer read a paper on "Trends of library training in America," by Sarah C. N. Bogle who was unable to be present. The paper contained much information and up-to-the-minute statistics.

At the general meeting Thursday morning, Dr. Warren W. Cox, director of Educational research division of New York, read a very interesting paper. The audience received a mimeographed copy of the results of his research studies in the reading interests of boys and girls, which gave the books generally chosen by boys and girls of certain ages. (See p. 426).

Gretchen Westervelt, librarian of the Elementary School library, Potsdam Normal School, read an interesting paper on "Boys' and girls' book choices." Sabra Vought, director of libraries, U. S. Office of Education, discussed "Library service for boys and girls—our national program."

On Thursday afternoon, Anna E. Thompson of the Syracuse public library contributed her address on "Getting non-fiction read" which had been postponed from Tuesday afternoon.

At the general session Thursday evening, Ruth Sawyer Durand spoke about

"Creative aspects of story telling." This was most interesting and from the comments heard among librarians she treated her subject in a way different from the usual fashion.

Creative aspects of story telling

Story telling is one of those simple arts that take a lifetime to learn. A benefit attitude should not be harnessed to a story. A painter does not paint his picture with an educational intention nor does a musician compose with that idea. It is true that story telling broadens the understanding, deepens sympathy, quickens the spirit to beauty, and results in a fine sharing of ideas and adventures. But these are all secondary. The story comes first and is a reward in itself.

How has the story come to be? To know this is a necessary background if the teller is to have a fine feeling for his story. You cannot make believe that you are going on an adventure. No art is ever built without a background in a scattery, surface way. The potter has a *feeling* for the object he is shaping; the weaver has a *feeling* for a pattern that is being produced.

There is more assimilation than learning in story telling. The creative is done in such a way that apparently it was never done before. In creative work the imagination is used more than fingers, lips or tongue. Something may be gotten from the musician who said, "You are playing, not so much with your fingers as with your mind." It has been said of another musician, "No matter what Paderewski plays he seems to be improvising." The sense of seeming improvisation distinguishes the creative from the mechanical.

Most important in technique is the question of how to memorize stories. There are three ways of doing it: Learning by word of mouth, learning by incident and learning by picture. The picture way is the only way. There arises the fear of command of words, lack of

assurance, and that makes it appear as if the recitation were the natural way. However, we remember pictures more than symbols. Make yourself into a motion picture machine. We do that in our every day experiences but we are not conscious of it.

Seafaring men and negroes are good story tellers because they have no idea of giving an impression or no idea of an effect. There should be a feeling of refreshment no matter how many times the story is told. Both the peasant and the seaman live keenly in their environment. They live close to the heart of things and are not jaded or blasé. That is an important factor in story telling. No creative story teller ever stales no matter how many times the tale has been told.

"The simplest kind of a story told is the repetition story, then the single episode story, then the sequence adventure story, the story with more than one theme and, fifth, the story of literary quality. The more elaborate the story is, the more you must go back again when you are studying it. When Kreisler practices, he works alone, or by himself without touching his instrument—thinking it, living it anew, living it with the inner ear.

"Develop the ability to hear yourself—to speak with a pleasing sound of voice. The voice is the instrument on which the story-teller plays. It is not voice training that is necessary but ear training—the listening ear'.

"Explanations and post mortems are wicked. To look for—or ask for a reaction is also wicked. If you have had an emotional experience you want to be left alone."

On Friday morning John Farrar of Farrar and Rinehart spoke about book publishing. A summary follows:

Book publishing

In the last ten years book publishing has changed. It is more business and less profession, more competitive.

Manuscripts are either solicited or unsolicited. The number which a publisher receives during a year varies between 1,500 and 4,000. To give an idea of the proportion accepted, one literary agent took 30 out of 633; 15 of these 30 were sold as books.

After the acceptance of a manuscript, a rough estimate is made as to what the book will be like and the approximate cost. Editing follows this: spelling, punctuation and possible slips are checked. It is very usual to find that even veteran writers will call one character by several names or refer to the layout of a room which has already been described otherwise.

The words of the manuscript are counted and the page size determined. The paper is decided upon and ordered. The title page is planned and an artist is selected to design the jacket.

Six weeks is the usual time allowed for printing the manuscript. A week or two is used for composition and then there follow galley proofs, page proofs and foundry proofs. Almost any book can be reprinted in 10 days.

Most publishers do not have their own printing plants. Sometimes it takes as many as seven companies to make a book.

Books are sold from one week to six months in advance. Pre-publication promotion is tremendously important.

"The self-appointed censor" was dealt with by William F. Yust of the Rochester public library in his usual vigorous fashion. Mr. Yust stated that as long as people have strong convictions there will be an individual or a group insisting that their ideas be accepted by others. He stated that Dr. Bowerman's book of essays includes one of the best articles on the subject.

Lilian Potter, librarian of the Holland Patent free library, discussed the various problems in book selection problems in smaller libraries. Miss Potter has been doing unusual work and this year won a scholarship.

At the Reference round table held Friday morning, Helen LeFevre of Middletown discussed interestingly "The endless procession—periodicals," noting the helpfulness of a number. Gladys Love, Rochester public library, discussed the good points of *Everyman's Encyclopedia*. Mary Eastwood of the State library, whose work in listing desirable new books for so many years has been

most helpful, commented on the proposed George Washington lists. Mildred E. Ross of the Grosvenor library, Buffalo, gave a resumé of the Guide to historical literature.

Dr. Wyer gave a very enlightening report on the Dictionary of American biography. The seventh volume appeared while the New York State library association conference was in session. He stated that the work contains the names of no living persons and that the biographies are short and unusually excellent. The 20 volumes will contain about 16,000 biographies.

At a special luncheon held for library trustees, Elizabeth Arthur, State Grange lecturer, discussed the needs which the rural folk have in the book line and made an appeal for librarians to meet them more than half way.

At the Friday evening general session, a delightful address was made by Dr. Burges Johnson, director of public relations, Syracuse University, on "Books and the folks who make them." He delighted his audience.

Officers for 1932 are:

President, Frank L. Tolman, director of New York library extension division; vice-president, Ernestine Rose, librarian, 135th Street branch, New York public library; council member, Milton J. Ferguson, librarian, Brooklyn public library.

Two members who were in attendance at the first Lake Placid Club meeting held 41 years ago, were Dr. Melvil Dewey, former New York state librarian and author of *D. C.*, and Josephine Adams Rathbone of Pratt Institute library school, president of the American Library Association.

The yearly subscription price of *Design in Industry*, the monthly bulletin annotating the current literature on industrial design which is sponsored jointly by the Newark public library and Newark museum, has been increased from 25 cents to one dollar.

Library Meetings

Boulder—The Colorado and Wyoming library associations held a joint meeting at Boulder, Colorado, October 8-10, with an attendance of over 150—a good percentage of them coming from Wyoming. The meetings were held at the University of Colorado.

Dr. Irene P. McKeehan gave an address on "Colorado authors." She traced the development of authorship in the state and stressed choice of subject matter by the writers, rather than style.

Edmund B. Rogers, superintendent of the Rocky Mountain national parks, explained the educational work of the national park service. He said that interest in books had been aroused thru guided nature trips, campfire lectures, etc., without mentioning books. (!)

The outstanding speaker was Francis W. K. Drury, executive secretary of adult education at A. L. A. Headquarters. He dwelt upon the value of the large vision that is needed by library workers and the great social force which the library becomes with a high vision of adult education interpreting library service.

The entertainment furnished by the local committee helped to make the members better acquainted and gave an opportunity for the exchange of ideas.

A banquet and an experience luncheon, a pioneer banquet at the Alps a few miles up the beautiful Boulder canyon, and a delightful post conference tea, with an address on children's books, closed a successful three days' meeting.

Newly-elected officers of the Colorado library association for 1931-32 are: President, May Wood Wiggington, Denver public library; secretary-treasurer, Anne M. Strasser, Traveling library, State Capitol, Denver; regional vice-presidents, Anna Nutter, Delta public library, Katherine Marvin, Sterling public library, and Frances F. Hart, Woodruff Memorial library, La Junta; council, Linda M. Clatworthy, Denver Univer-

sity, and C. Henry Smith, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Chicago—The Chicago library club held its first meeting of the season on October 8 at Kroch's Bookstore, following a dinner attended by 90 members.

The President introduced the new members of the Executive committee. Jerome K. Wilcox, first vice-president, presented the project of the Club assuming revision of the *Handbook of Chicago Libraries* to include an index of special collections in the libraries of Chicago and environs, for the particular benefit of visitors to the Chicago Industrial Fair in 1932. A later report on the matter will be made.

Miss Ida Wright, second vice-president, outlined the Club's program for the rest of the year. Nearly 100 applicants were voted into club membership.

The President reported that Miss Ahern had graciously invited the members of the Club to hold the October meeting at her home in celebration of her 35 years of membership in the Club, but it had been impossible to change the arrangements previously made. The president expressed regret that Miss Ahern was not able to accept the Club's invitation to be its guest of honor that evening and stated that flowers had been sent to her by the Club, with a message designed to reach her at the time of the Club's meeting. George B. Utley, librarian of the Newberry library, presented a resolution which was unanimously adopted, extending the greeting of Club members to Miss Ahern and expressing regret at her inability to be present at the meeting. Also there was presented a resolution of regret at the announcement that LIBRARIES was to be discontinued and expressing high appreciation of the work and power of the magazine during its years of publication.

The "Fall Pageant of Books," the special feature of the evening's program,

was opened by Mr. Kroch with a paper on fall trends in books and the relationship between publishers and librarians. Five Chicago authors who gave brief talks about their latest publications, Dr. Edwin Rogers Embree, Vincent Starrett, Henry Justin Smith, Eunice Tietjens and Bob Becker, were greatly enjoyed. The meeting adjourned after a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Kroch and the representatives of the 30 publishing houses present who had contributed so much to the evening's success with their exhibits of new fall books. A social hour among the new books closed the meeting.

Iowa—The annual meeting of the Iowa library association was held in Cedar Rapids, October 7-9, with the largest attendance (over 300) in its history, President J. Sidney Johnson of Marshalltown presiding.

Discussions centered on the problem of how to extend library facilities to more people in Iowa. This brought in the important subject of county libraries. Mary F. Parmalee, who has had charge of the Blackhawk County Demonstration during the past year, enumerated four points essential for success in establishing an effective and permanent county library: 1) A county with only one county organization to avoid rivalry; 2) A strong public library to back the movement; 3) Use of letters, telephone and house to house calls rather than long petitions of names; 4) A limited number of supervisors to avoid politics.

The effort to extend other county libraries in Iowa will be continued.

Among the interesting addresses given were those by F. K. W. Drury, librarian of the Public library, Nashville, Tennessee, on "Personal service for adults in public libraries"; Mrs. May Lambertson Becker, of New York, an Iowa favorite, on "The new books"; Lelia S. Wilson of the Iowa library commission on

"Book wagon experience in southern Indiana"; Milton E. Lord, director of the University libraries at Iowa City, on "Five years of European library experiences"; Johnson Brigham, Iowa state librarian, on "Edwin Arlington Robinson"; Fjeril Hess on "Folk songs and tales of many lands"; Carl Van Doren on "European and American literature" and Harrison John Thornton, assistant professor of history, State University of Iowa, on "The evolution of American industrial civilization."

New officers elected are:

President, E. Joanna Hagey of Cedar Rapids; vice-president, May M. Clark of Dubuque; treasurer, Elizabeth Walpole of Storm Lake, and member of the Executive board, Alice B. Story of Marshalltown.

ELIZABETH MARTIN

Secretary

New Orleans—The New Orleans library club was organized at a meeting held in the public library on October 6. Helmer Webb, librarian of Tulane University, was elected president; Anna May Leone, New Orleans public library, vice-president; Lena Marcy of the Loyola library, secretary, and William Pfaff, Jr., treasurer.

The object of the new organization is to increase the usefulness of the libraries of New Orleans and vicinity, to promote interest in libraries and to encourage fellowship among the librarians and those interested in books.

Interest in the movement was evidenced by an attendance of 75 persons.

Ohio—A joint conference of the Ohio library association, the Ohio Library Trustees' association and the West Virginia library association was held at Marietta, Ohio, September 30-October 2. Over 300 persons attended. Paul North Rice, librarian of the Dayton public library and president of the Ohio library association, presided at all business and general sessions.

Meetings for the groups interested in college and university libraries, large

and small libraries, cataloging, circulation, children's work and reference work were held in the mornings. Groups interested in the business of trustees, college and university libraries, school libraries, state and local history, hospital libraries and county libraries, held luncheon meetings. Interesting papers and discussions were reported from all these meetings.

At the first general session, Dr. Frank D. Slutz, popular lecturer of Dayton, spoke on "The library and the new heaven in education."

On Thursday, two of the country's outstanding authors and literary women were heard. In the afternoon Zona Gale gave an address on "Some tendencies in modern fiction." Mrs. May Lamberton Becker spoke at a banquet meeting held in the evening. Mrs. Becker's address, tho of a different type, was as interesting as was Miss Gale's, the latter being a creator and the former an interpreter of literature. Mrs. Becker talked on "The American scene," discussing contemporary fiction writers and American authors and their outstanding works.

At the final session Friday evening, Josephine Adams Rathbone, president of the A.L.A., and Cora M. Beatty of A.L.A. Headquarters spoke to the association. Albert Edward Wiggam outlined and discussed in a very interesting manner the points which to his mind make an educated man.

The Ohio library association unanimously passed resolutions of protest in regard to the deplorable conditions existing in the Ohio state library. The fact that the library was without funds for one year and that under both Republican and Democratic administrations untrained and incompetent appointments had been made to the staff, led the association to take a stand in defense of proper support of the State library.

A delightful reception was held on Thursday for the guests. On Friday a visit was made to historic and scenic

points, of which there are several in the locality of outstanding interest. This excursion was preceded by a lecture on "Historic Marietta" by the librarian of the public library.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Georgie G. McAfee, Lima public library; first vice-president, Pauline Reich, Cleveland Heights public library; second vice-president, Mellie M. Smith, Miami University, Oxford; third vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Bilsby, Bexley public library; secretary, Effie Abraham, Toledo public library; treasurer, George J. Blazier, Marietta College library.

ETHEL MACDOWELL
Secretary

Coming meetings

Southwestern library association biennial meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 30-31, 1932.

Virginia library association annual meeting, New Warwick Hotel, Newport News, November 6-7.

North Carolina library association biennial meeting, Duke University, Durham, November 12-13.

American Library Association Midwinter meeting, Hotel Drake, Chicago, December 28-31.

American Library Association annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25-30, 1932.

Weekly Educational Programs on Radio

The National Advisory Council on Radio in Education has just completed its plans for a weekly educational program of radio addresses on present day economics and psychology which will be broadcast, beginning October 17, Saturday evenings from 8:30-9:00 Eastern standard time.

Librarians can follow up the broadcast immediately with references to books mentioned in the lecture, or arrange for assemblages in informal discussion groups at the broadcasting hour.

Interesting Things in Print

Special Libraries for September has a full account of the proceedings of the twenty-third annual conference held at Cleveland, June 10-12.

Part two of *Essay and General Literature Index*, edited by Minnie Earl Sears and Marian Shaw, has been issued. The titles consist mainly of books published during the last few years. (Wilson).

The 1930 issue of "Canadian catalog of books" has been completed. It was compiled by the Public library, Toronto, under the direction of George H. Locke, chief librarian.

A pamphlet describing hospital service of the Public library, Sioux City, Iowa, gives interesting and valuable information concerning hospital library service. The pamphlet was prepared by Rose A. O'Connor, hospital librarian.

What will be a useful tool to many students is a leaflet issued by the University of Illinois, entitled "What shall I read?" The leaflet contains a list of 50 books set apart in the browsing room of the University library in answer to the question.

A book by Edwin E. Slosson, A number of things, contains an interesting article entitled "Dining on the Dewey system." It is a satire on the way work is done in public libraries, and will appeal specially to "those who know."

C. H. B.

A well-presented resumé of the professional life of Mrs. Theresa West Elmendorf appeared in no. 5, vol. 14 of the *Bulletin of Bibliography*. The sketch presents the outstanding points of Mrs. Elmendorf's library career but does not attempt the impossible—an adequate presentation of the high, clear personality for which she is so distinguished.

The first supplement to the third edition of "Subject headings used in the dictionary catalogues of the Library of Congress" has been published by the U. S. Government Printing Office.

The Public library of the District of Columbia issued in October its *Bulletin* no. 12, "Informal educational opportunities in Washington," which is a useful current directory of lectures, discussions, exhibits, music, drama and special trips.

Seven of these bulletins are issued each year, and in response to requests, a subscription list has recently been arranged for.

Donald Hendry, head of the applied science reference department of Pratt Institute free library, has compiled a selected list of books, "Technical books of 1930." The list includes works of elementary scientific nature, those treating the subject matter from the popular standpoint, those treating of details of practical application and advanced books for specialized scientific study.

As a result of the steadily increasing demand for stories that will teach children cleanliness, a list of 59 stories (chosen from books and magazines) under the title "Cleanliness stories for children" has been compiled by Ida M. Lynn, assistant librarian of the Cleanliness Institute, New York City. The Institute will fill any reasonable requests from librarians gratis.

The University of Minnesota Press recently published jointly with Oxford University Press, London, The parliamentary diary of Robert Bowyer, 1606-1607, a seventeenth century document edited by David H. Willson of the University of Minnesota. The Diary will interest students of English constitutional history. This marks the beginning of an agreement whereby the Oxford Press will publish jointly and distribute thruout the British Empire those

publications of the University of Minnesota Press that are of international interest.

The H. W. Wilson Company has issued a new and timely volume in its *Reference Shelf* series, Trends in university education. Criticisms of higher educational institutions have been rife in these past years, and searching inquiries from every side and standpoint have resulted in lively debate, much of which is bound to yield valuable results in better understanding of values both in the university ranks and in public knowledge. In Trends in university education, every side of the question is covered by selected articles, briefs and a selected bibliography. It is a book that will be found useful in all libraries.

Another interesting Wilson book added to the material relating to college and university interests is the *University Debater's Annual* which contains all material, arguments and conclusions, used in nine intercollegiate debates that occurred in 1930-1931.

The Louisiana library association issued in August the first number of the *Louisiana Library Association Bulletin*. The object of the *Bulletin* is to afford a means of communication between the various libraries of the state, and to present such news of the progress of library events in Louisiana as will be helpful to all who are interested in library development. The editorial work on the *Bulletin* will be in charge of Tulane University library, and the expense will be underwritten by the Library commission, Louisiana State University library and Tulane University library.

The first number of the *Bulletin* gave a most interesting review of library development in Louisiana, presenting an outlook that is most encouraging for library interests in that state.

The Columbus Memorial library of the Pan American Union, Washington, D. C., has published a list of "Theses on Pan American topics," prepared by candidates for degrees in colleges and universities in the United States.

The Special Libraries association, New York City, has recently published a chart entitled "Statistics on commodities," which is a key to the statistics published regularly in business and trade magazines.

Volume 5 of the *United States Daily Annual Index-Digest* (1930-31) has appeared. Both newsprint and rag paper editions are printed in durable Levant board covers. This will be a time-saver and a trustworthy tool for any reference library.

A list of references, maps and printed material will be sent on request to librarians in the western states interested in the events of the Oregon Trail Centenary Celebration. Write to the Oregon Trail Memorial association, 95 Madison Avenue, New York City.

The report gives a very interesting review of the library's expansion.

Some valuable information on the recent work on the deterioration of leather bookbinding is contained in a little pamphlet, "The decay of bookbinding leathers," by R. W. Frey and I. D. Clarke. This is a reprint from the September number of *The Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association*.

A list of references on national economic councils, compiled by Laura A. Thompson, librarian, U. S. Department of Labor, has been reprinted from the *Monthly Labor Review* (May, 1931). Various speakers are listed under the larger headings which denote the specific subject matter of the councils, and under each speaker's name is given a brief resumé of his discussions.

An interesting reading list on American life, "American bibliography," has been published by a local committee of the National Student Federation of America and Kappa Phi Zeta, honorary-professional library fraternity of the University of California at Los Angeles. This bibliography was compiled with the aim of giving a well-chosen reading list on American life to foreign students who have expressed a need for such a list.

An interesting paper by Fanny Goldstein, librarian of the West End branch, Boston public library, under the title "The Italians of Boston—what they have done and what they are doing in the history of Massachusetts" tells of the participation of the Italians in the Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary celebration and sums up the contributions of that race to the cultural and educational development of the country. Boston has been particularly favored in the kind and extent of interest the Italians have contributed in this direction. The paper carries with it a selected list of books giving glimpses of Italy and Italian life, both there and elsewhere.

The *Chicago Tribune* has prepared a little booklet informing its staff, and the general public as well, of the resources of the library it maintains for the purpose of giving them every assistance in deriving information.

The library contains files of the leading newspapers, clippings filed under 2,500 subject headings, approximately 10,000 standard reference books, cartoon and editorial indexes, surveys and magazine literature and a complete assortment of out-of-the-way sources found in every well-regulated reference room, crowned, of course, by the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*.

Mildred E. Burke is the efficient librarian of this library.

Library Schools

Carnegie library

The Library school opened its thirty-first year on September 19. Of the 46 students registered, 21 are college graduates representing institutions of higher learning from all over the United States; 23 are academic library students from the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh; 2 are part-time students and 2 special students.

Pennsylvania, quite naturally, leads the states in representation, with 32 students in the class for the year; Ohio comes second with 5; Illinois and Maryland both contribute 2; and a single representative of each comes from Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Montana and West Virginia.

The work of the year divides the class into three groups according to respective interests: the General library course and the Library work with children course each have an enrollment of 20; 6 girls have registered for the course in Library work with schools.

All alumni of the School have been notified concerning the Alumni Anniversary Fellowship which is to be available to a graduate of the School biennially or annually for the purpose of special study, bibliographical work or research.

Under the direction of Elizabeth Nesbitt, an extension course in Book selection for children is being given to 36 elementary school teachers of the Pittsburgh public and parochial schools.

Twenty-two graduates of the School have been added recently to the system of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh; of these, 11 are from the class of '31.

FRANCES H. KELLY
Associate-director

University of Denver

The school of librarianship of the University of Denver was established with the advice of the American Library Association Board of education for li-

brarianship, with a preliminary grant from the Carnegie Corporation of \$5,000 and an annual grant of \$10,000 for three years, from the same source, the rest of the expenses to be borne by the University of Denver, of which this is a recognized school.

The students coming to the school with senior standing (the minimum requirement) may receive either the A. B. or the B. S. degree, according to their selection of courses during the first three years of college. Students who present a bachelor's degree from an approved institution will receive the degree of B. S. in L. S. on completion of a satisfactory year's work in the school of librarianship.

The school has an enrollment of 33, of whom four are part-time and 29 are full-time students. There are 16 collegiate institutions and seven states represented; 23 members of the class are from Colorado, and other states represented are: Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, California and Oregon. All but seven of the students are college graduates, and three have the master's degree.

The faculty is composed of the following: Malcolm G. Wyer, dean; Harriet E. Howe, director; Helen L. Butler, Book selection and Reference work; and Agnes C. Hansen, Cataloging and classification.

Drexel Institute

The School of library science opened its thirty-first year on September 21, with an enrollment of 48 students largely from the Atlantic Coast states and from New Hampshire, Connecticut, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota. All the students are members of the American Library Association.

Classes began September 22, and observation visits have been made to the Free library of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania library and the Library of the University of Pennsylvania.

The class organization was effected on October 8. Hughes O. Gibbons was elected president and Mrs. Margaret E. Allen, secretary-treasurer.

ANNE W. HOWLAND
Director

Los Angeles public library

The following changes in the faculty of the library school are announced:

Resignations—Lucille Kelling, Mildred Coleman and Mrs. Jessie Wickersham Luther.

Appointments—Katherine E. Anderson, lecturer in book selection and reference; S. Metella Williams, lecturer in cataloging, classification, bibliography, library records and government publications; Elizabeth C. Landram, reviser and instructor in junior course.

The Los Angeles public library engaged the majority of the class of 1931. Most of the rest entered Pacific Coast libraries.

Pratt Institute

The Vice-director represented the A. L. A. at New York State Library Week at Lake Placid Club, September 22, and in the same capacity attended the bi-state meeting of West Virginia and Ohio at Marietta on October 2. The duties of her new position necessitated the giving up of one of her regular courses, and the Library school has been fortunate to secure Mrs. Martha Kelley Barr (class of '19) to take over the reference course. Mrs. Barr has had excellent experience as school reference librarian in several branches of the New York public library.

St. Louis public library

Two changes have been made on the staff. Edith L. Magoon (A. B., Ohio Wesleyan University) is teaching the courses in Book selection and Cataloging, formerly taught by Mrs. Mary Jewett Gilbert. Since her graduation from the St. Louis library school in June, 1929, Miss Magoon has been on the readers' advisory service staff, St. Louis public library.

Mrs. Doralouise Britt Brown (A. B., Washington University) graduated from the St. Louis library school last June, and joins the staff as reviser.

The School has limited this year's attendance to 32.

Appointments of class of '31

Harry Bauer has charge of the circulation department, University of Missouri library, Columbia.

Father F. W. Benoit continues in charge of St. Louis University High School library.

Mother Adele Carr is organizing a library at Villa Duchesne, a county day school for girls.

Elsie Chaplin has accepted an appointment as reference assistant, Washington University library.

Mother Jessie Field is reorganizing the library of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, St. Charles, Missouri.

Lillian Griffiths is employed as organizer of high school libraries, Board of education, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Ruth Knoll has joined the staff of the Missouri library commission at Jefferson City.

Michael Koch is cataloging the Prison library at Jefferson City for the Missouri library commission.

MRS. HARRIET P. SAWYER
Principal

Simmons College

The School of library science opened its year filled to capacity. Of the 75 who are candidates for the degree in June, 1932, 26 are graduates representing 18 different academic colleges and 49 are seniors of Simmons College.

The District of Columbia and 18 states are represented; two-thirds are from New England; Utah marks the Western limit.

Six of the 1931 class are married; the others are settling into work in the usual variety of positions. Those taking librarians' positions are:

Gwendolyn Edwards, librarian, Public library, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Doris I. Furbish, librarian, Barnstable high school, Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Esther C. Lang, children's librarian, Public library, Swampscott, Massachusetts.

Virginia P. Miller, librarian, Cheney free public library, Hoosick Falls, New York.

Bernice A. Smith, librarian, Donnell Junior high school, Findlay, Ohio.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY
Director

University of Washington

Ruth Worden has been appointed successor to William E. Henry, who resigned as dean of the library school on June 30 to become dean emeritus. (See p. 272). Miss Worden has acted as his assistant for the past five years.

University Extension Lectures on Library Service

The Massachusetts Division of public libraries, Department of education, will conduct a university extension course at the Boston public library, October 27-December 16. The course includes a series of eight lectures on library service by the following: Ethel M. Pope, Lydia W. Masters, Edith L. Little, E. Kathleen Jones, Nina C. Brotherton, Mrs. Florence B. Sloan, Edna Phillips and E. Louise Jones.

Only those actively engaged in library work are eligible to take the course which is planned especially for library assistants and small town librarians.

A. L. A. Asked to Help

Secretary Milam¹ re-issues a call to libraries and librarians, which he has received from the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief, to support and participate in unified relief activities, with a direct appeal that the A. L. A. ally itself with the other organizations actively cooperating in the relief program.

The appeal is for every library force to be available in the unified local effort to meet the situation. The libraries' contributions, like the problem of relief itself will be largely a local matter.

The library can make a valuable contribution toward clearer thinking thru the use of books. If books on the various pertinent topics can be provided by libraries, discussion groups will easily be formed.

¹Mr. Milam's message to librarians unfortunately was received too late to be given the full space it merits, but the substance of it follows.

A reading course on unemployment will soon be published by A. L. A.

November *Booklist* will carry a selected list of 12 books on the subject, and similar lists will be issued in the *Booklist* from month to month. If there is a demand, the list will be published separately for distribution by libraries.

The use of books following the educational broadcasts of lectures on economics, particularly the causes of economic depression and the way out, can be promoted by libraries. The A. L. A. will soon have a list also of 30 books on economics, covering the series of lectures broadcast by the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education. The list is to be prepared by the American Economic association, with the advice of those who are to give the radio lectures. Librarians, thru promotion of the reading of books on current issues, can make a notable contribution, not to an immediate relief, but to a permanent solution of today's unemployment problem.

Yet another suggestion for librarians is that of an expansion program, to include: later library hours every night, opening of the library on Sunday mornings, books and talks in the library on vocational readjustment, organization of book clubs and discussion groups and the supplying of reading matter in places where unemployed men sleep.

Organization Officers for 1932

Rosamond Parma, librarian of the University of California, Berkeley, was elected president of the American Association of law libraries for 1931-32.

The newly elected officers of the College and Reference section of the American Library Association are:

Chairman, James A. McMillen, librarian, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; secretary-treasurer, Jackson E. Towne, librarian, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee; directors, F. L. D. Goodrich, librarian, College of the City of New York, and Helen K. Starr, librarian, James J. Hill library, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Department of School Libraries

A book is a messenger that comes and goes only when invited. Its message may remain forever.

The Young People's Librarian and Vocational Guidance¹

Mary J. Cain, in charge of work with young people, Indianapolis public library

Any sort of library direction or guidance resolves itself into that never ceasing drama of action and reaction that takes place with the many possibilities that develop from it. It must be free. It should never be definite, dictating or determining.

Certainly the vocational guidance program as outlined by school leaders today is the greatest challenge that has been tossed to library workers with young people. It begins, is emphasized and worked out most closely and conscientiously within those years termed intermediate. That is, it begins with the junior high school and continues thru the twelfth grade. Moreover, it demands the sympathetic and intelligent assistance of many adult departments within the library. May it not, if the challenge is met with the earnest effort at coöperation it merits, find special assistants for these intermediates in certain adult departments?

The possibility is more than likely, for vocational guidance is not an adventurous sallying forth of educators into new fields merely to march back again. It is a mighty movement toward a worthy goal; accumulated findings put into dynamic action in response to society's plea for a better adjustment between the worker and his work. And whether functioning thru a high school or some other type of vocational school, it merits the library's heartiest coöperation. Therefore the young people's librarian

must inform herself concerning all its phases. Thru the earnestness and ability with which vocational guidance is being shouldered thruout the country, she will witness a reorganization of secondary education on account of it. She will see the school administrator accepting the task of discovering individual differences and setting into operation a curriculum thru which these individual differences may work toward a surer preparedness for life. She will ask herself, Just what place is the young people's librarian to fill in all this new activity?

The very definition of vocational guidance is determining her answer. Vocational guidance is the giving of information; experiences and advice in regard to choosing, entering upon and progressing in an occupation. The library enters into this first step in vocational guidance. There is not a more watchful, discriminating and assiduous collector or more willing disseminator of such necessary knowledge than the library. Consequently the young people's librarian does not have to find a place for herself in vocational guidance. She is already a part of it. It merely remains for her to face its every avenue of service. DeWitt S. Morgan, principal of the Arsenal Technical high schools at Indianapolis, authority on vocational guidance and co-author of two leading books on the subject, when asked what role he thot the librarian had in all this great effort, replied that there was no limit to what the librarian and especially the young people's librarian could do toward forwarding vocational guidance.

In view of this high estimation of her work, let her take a glance down the various avenues of service and see if

¹ Given at the Young People's Reading round table, A. L. A. meeting, New Haven, Connecticut, June 24.

from a librarian's standpoint they are not as inviting as they are challenging. First of all, there is the live, active program of her own locality to be understood and coped with. And I know of no better method to pursue here than that of applying the guidance principle of letting the aptitudes and abilities of the individual determine what he shall be taught. And so the librarian must allow her local plan to determine how that plan shall be ministered to. If it is a large one, all departments and special branches of the library must take cognizance of it. They must keep abreast with every national development in guidance and add all valuable contributions as soon as they are published. The librarian will find this task of keeping her lists and collections up-to-date, an exacting one in itself. New methods are being constantly devised and new vocational workbooks which definitely antedate earlier copyrights are rapidly being printed. This condition alone renders the use of a textbook almost valueless and increases the value of the library as a laboratory. The very diversity of demand engendered by a well-organized vocational guidance program is challenging.

The instructors on the hunt of new and interesting phases of occupations for class presentation, the students eager to satisfy an aroused interest in some late opportunity that has developed, experts in various fields and successful business men and women who are called on to speak before the different classes, all seek the library for information and material and should find both. The closer the school gets to the pulse of every phase of social and economic activity, the more pronounced becomes the relationship between it and the library. How profitable that relationship grows depends upon what the library is willing to do to meet the demands awakened by the school. Not only must the library

gather needed guidance material tirelessly but it must make related collections count. There are backgrounds to be built up, gaps to be closed. These services the library must perform.

Our gigantic and complex civilization has removed from the experience of the boy and girl the chance to watch people at their work as in the days of the village blacksmith and other picturesque callings. Lacking this opportunity, the young people also miss the inspiration which it furnished and the desire to emulate which it aroused. The library must supply these experiences thru books which describe occupations and the qualifications a worker should have who aspires one day to reap the rewards of a chosen occupation.

Biographies must be scanned for any contributing factor or inspiration, for character building influences, for achievement and for performance. The relation of certain biographies to certain occupations must be noted and the librarian be prepared to supplement one with the other when the need arises. Indeed to the librarian who works very closely with students from vocational guidance classes, whole collections of books take on new significance, departments disclose new relationships and the librarian longs for the faculty of bi-location attributed to some of the saints that she might be at her post and at the same time accompany the young quester on his trip to another department.

Hence it is manifest that coping adequately with a vocational guidance program is something more than having the right number of books, pamphlets and magazines on guidance and occupations and being able to produce them on demand. Mere bibliographies and collections are pretty apt to be dull, disconcerting and unpromising things until lighted with rays of interest and enthusiasm. Then they are like shadowed peaks which when touched with the shafts of

dawn suddenly emerge and invite scaling. When the young people's librarian has, thru selection, association and suggestion done this, she has gone far on the way to making the words "education" and "information" as appealing as "adventure" and "romance"—an achievement which will make of the library the indispensable laboratory to the vocational guidance movement it should be.

In smaller communities where there is not the spur of organized vocational guidance in the schools, it is entirely within the province of the librarian to inaugurate a small guidance program of her own. If she can obtain the coöperation of the school authorities, such a program should be popular and helpful.

Then there are the communities where the whole economic life centers about some particular occupation or industry. Furnishing outlets and widening opportunities is the exhilarating privilege of an alert librarian in this situation. Rose M. Lane in *LIBRARIES* for November, 1929, tells how she met such a guidance need with joy to herself and benefit to the community. I recommend her account as a thrilling document for any librarian of a small library who seeks vocational guidance opportunities.

Of course it is the large library that is going to be most concerned and first affected by the vocational guidance movement. But just as there will be no high school however small or remote but what will see its curriculum molded to meet certain guidance tendencies, so there will be no library but what will have some share, no matter how minor, in the program.

Thru vocational guidance I believe librarians and particularly young people's librarians are face to face with one of those changes that time brings to which John Cotton Dana so earnestly bade us respond. Any one inclined to doubt this should read David Snedden's thot-

compelling book just off the press, *American high schools and vocational schools in 1960*. In it is vision and certainly many tendencies that will become realities.

Instructors, students and parents have become so one-minded in the matter of education that it results in a great deal of earnest coöperation. This coöperation is overflowing into the library, and students quite as a matter of fact are claiming the same comprehension of their needs that the school shows and a readier fulfilment of their book demands.

The library in its turn should respond with enthusiasm, and should carry on for the intermediates the same close and active coöperation with outside agencies in which the juvenile department engages. It should have ready and exact knowledge of every opportunity the city affords for vocational guidance and, at least, a speaking acquaintance with each one. Statistics and individual histories compiled at the cost of a great deal of labor by schools and bureaus should be used by the young people's librarian to make more effective her work with intermediates who have left school. There should be visits to the high schools, a watchful support of their guidance programs, and above all there should be stated conferences of college, high school and public librarians working with young people.

Fortified with such coöperation the vocational guidance movement should bring high school and public library closer together. Coöperation implies a knowledge of each other's program. Such knowledge furnishes respect one for the other, removes the spirit of rivalry and makes allies of school and library, a most desirable result, for only when they are allies are they educating in the fullest sense of the word and providing an incentive for the furtherance of that education thruout life.

Most Interesting Books to Boys and Girls at Various Ages*

Arranged according to frequency of mention

| Girls | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Age 12-13 | Age 14-16 | Age 17-18 |
| Girl of the limberlost | Zane Gray's works | Zane Gray's works |
| Little women | Little women | Girl of the limberlost |
| Pollyanna | Pollyanna | Tale of two cities |
| Zane Gray's works | Freckles | David Copperfield |
| Freckles | Anne of Green Gables | Little women |
| Little Colonel series | Little Shepherd of kingdom | Anne of Green Gables |
| Fairy tales | come | Shepherd of the hills |
| Rebecca of Sunnybrook farm | Girl of the limberlost | Little shepherd of kingdom |
| Elsie Dinsmore | Laddie | come |
| Laddie | Graustark | Freckles |
| Anne of Green Gables | O. Henry stories | When a man's a man |
| Boy Scout series | Seventeen | Ivanhoe |
| Little Pepper series | Tale of two cities | Ben Hur |
| Ben Hur | To have and to hold | Trail of the lonesome pine |
| Secret garden | Silas Marner | Call of the wild |
| Heidi | Covered wagon | Lorna Doone |
| When knighthood was in flower | Scaramouche | O. Henry stories |
| Seventeen | David Copperfield | Eyes of the world |
| Eight cousins | Treasure Island | Lady of the lake |
| Black Beauty | Huckleberry Finn | Little minister |
| | Virginian | Laddie |
| Boys | | |
| Boy Scout series | Zane Gray's works | Zane Gray's works |
| Zane Gray's works | Call of the wild | Call of the wild |
| Call of the wild | Treasure Island | Ivanhoe |
| Treasure Island | Tom Sawyer | Huckleberry Finn |
| Huckleberry Finn | Tarzan series | Tom Sawyer |
| Tom Swift series | Tom Swift series | Treasure Island |
| Penrod | Penrod | Tale of two cities |
| Tom Sawyer | Covered wagon | When a man's a man |
| Tarzan series | Last of the Mohicans | Boy Scout series |
| Driven from home | Rover Boy series | Trail of the lonesome pine |
| Rover Boy series | White Fang | David Copperfield |
| Last of the Mohicans | Robinson Crusoe | Lorna Doone |
| Kidnapped | Boy Scout series | Freckles |
| Motor Boy series | Ivanhoe | Little Shepherd of kingdom |
| Robinson Crusoe | Sea Hawk | come |
| Billy Whiskers | Kazan | Shepherd of the hills |
| Ivanhoe | O. Henry stories | Lady of the lake |
| White Fang | Ben Hur | White Fang |
| Robin Hood | Kidnapped | Tom Swift series |
| Radio Boy series | Huckleberry Finn | Sea Hawk |
| | | Tarzan series |

* Copies of this list by Dr. W. W. Cox, director of educational research division of New York, were distributed at the New York library association meeting at Lake Placid, September 21-26.

Librarians and high school science teachers will find much of service in a booklist compiled by Hanor A. Webb, editor of *Current Science*, entitled the "High school science library for 1930-31." The books are classified by science fields, and the list has the additional valuable item of being divided into price groups.

The 12 winners of the A. L. A. poster contest, recently conducted among junior and senior high school students in 13 southern states, were announced at the meeting of the School Libraries section, June 26, as well as the five contestants winning honorable mention. The prize money, given by the National Association of book publishers, will provide from 10 to 50 books for the school libraries concerned in the contest.

News from the Field East

Janet Merrill (Carnegie '28) has been appointed children's librarian of South Providence branch library, Rhode Island.

Helen B. Sheehan (Simmons '26) has resigned her position as librarian of the Cathedral library, Manchester, New Hampshire, to enter the postulate of Notre Dame at the Notre Dame Training School, Waltham, Massachusetts.

The fiftieth anniversary of Miss Alice Shepard as assistant librarian, City library, Springfield, Massachusetts, was celebrated on October 4. Thruout this long period of service, Miss Shepard's interest has been unflagging, her devotion unstinted; and the high ideals which she holds for librarianship have inspired her associates, particularly the members of the successive training classes that have been her special charge for over 30 years.

Dr. C. F. D. Belden, librarian of Boston Public library, who has been in ill health for some time, died at his home in Lenox, October 24.

Central Atlantic

Casindania Eaton (Simmons '29), formerly librarian of the Public library, Walpole, Massachusetts, has been appointed readers' adviser at the Osterhout free library, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Genevieve Geiger (Drexel '28) has been appointed librarian of the Haverford Township Senior high school, Pennsylvania.

Louise Hoxie (Simmons '14) has been appointed librarian of the State Normal School, Plattsburgh, New York.

Mrs. Rachel R. Anderson (Pratt '11), formerly librarian of the Central Park free library on Long Island, is now cataloger at the New York County Lawyers' association.

Isabella M. Cooper, formerly chief of the order department of the Queens Borough public library, has become librarian of the McGraw-Hill library to

succeed Pauline Petrie who has resigned because of ill health.

Plans are under way for the establishment and maintenance of county libraries in Pennsylvania, as the result of a recent appropriation of \$20,000 by the state legislature.

Helen M. Studer (Carnegie '25), Ruth Van Kirk Sigman (Carnegie '18), Mrs. Rose Griffiths (Carnegie '22), Elizabeth Beal (Carnegie '27) and Vivien E. Lucchi (Carnegie '28) have been appointed to positions in the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Hannah M. Jones, after 55 years of service as librarian of the Friends' free library, Germantown, Pennsylvania, was retired and has been appointed librarian emeritus of that institution. This library owes a large part of the valuable work it has accomplished these many years to Miss Jones' earnest work and watchful interest.

The fortieth annual report of the Public library, Newark, New Jersey, records a circulation of 2,201,687 books thruout the system. Almost half of this circulation was reached thru the children. It is noted that the opening of seven new children's rooms in branches did not affect the circulation of the main library. The extension department lent 140,000 volumes thru 39 deposit collections, an increase of 25 per cent over 1929.

There were 42,500 reference questions sent in to the business branch, and 78,000 people visited the branch during the year. Nearly half of the total circulation was made thru the branches, and more than 50 per cent of this was borrowed by children.

Margaret R. Kelley (Pratt '29) formerly school librarian of the Guernsey Memorial library, Norwich, New York, was married on June 29 to Russell Lowell Hogue.

Mrs. Evalena Cairns King (Pratt '29) has been appointed to the staff of the Pratt Institute free library.